



# Rural post offices defy strike call and demand ballot

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND ANDREW PIERCE

PRESSURE grew on postal union leaders yesterday to mount a national ballot on the peace plan drawn up at Acas after pockets of workers rejected strike action and demanded a resolution to the dispute.

The Post Office claimed that one in five delivery offices worked normally and that more than 10 per cent of its staff had arrived for work. It is to send a copy of the peace deal to all its staff so they can decide for themselves about the terms on offer.

The entire sorting office in Wimborne, Dorset, defied the nationwide strike call by the Communication Workers' Union and called for a ballot on the pay and conditions deal which was endorsed by Alan Johnson, joint general secretary, but rejected by the union's postal executive. Elsewhere other delivery workers reported for duty and the Post Office said it was able to deliver mail to a substantial number of regions.

The fragmentation of strike action and the growing support for the union's negotiators who brokered the peace deal will force further pressure on the splits within the union's executive.

Mr Johnson and his team that struck the deal with the Post Office are opposed by a hardline contingent within the postal executive, largely on the issue of teamwork. But under union rules unless the executive backs a deal it cannot go to national ballot.

Alan Pateman, the CWU's office representative at

Wimborne, said: "We just want to see a national ballot to speed things up in this debate. The offer was possibly a workable deal. Certainly it was an awful lot better than what existed previously."

"We feel that Alan Johnson is being undermined by having to go through the national executive. If the deal was put to the members then we would see what the feeling really was. We are the people that have to implement changes."

The Post Office claimed further strong pockets of resistance. It said 78 per cent of delivery workers in south Cornwall went to work while 67 per cent in the north of the county were working. In the Bath area it said 55 per cent were at work.

A spokesman for the CWU said strike figures were difficult to calculate accurately although he conceded that some members were breaking the strike. Billy Hayes, national organiser for the union, denied that the deadlock between the two sides was raising the political stakes for privatising the service.

He said: "The public has already said that it doesn't want the Post Office privatised. John Redwood has got cold ears. If Mrs Thatcher couldn't privatise it then certainly John Major can't."

His view was echoed by some Tory MPs, who warned the Government not to exploit the suspension of the Post Office monopoly to revive plans to sell off the Royal Mail. Speculation that the

privatisation had returned to the political agenda was heightened when Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, pointedly refused to rule it out in a series of radio interviews.

At the same time, a group of influential Conservative MPs expressed their fears that a manifesto commitment to privatisation of all or part of the service could cost votes at the general election. One former Cabinet minister said yesterday that privatisation might be "deeply unpopular".

There is widespread concern that temporary suspension is the forerunner of a permanent free-for-all that would leave the rural sub-post offices fighting for their survival.

MPs fear private contractors would cherry-pick the profit-making parcel trade in towns and cities leaving the Post Office struggling to maintain its universal services across the country without subsidies or cuts.

Colin Baker, General Secretary of the National Federation of Sub Postmasters, said that his first point of call was to Stuart Sweetman, managing director of Post Office Counters Ltd, to warn him that "rural sub offices are balancing on a knife edge".

Rural sub-post offices have not got a great deal of work as it is and anything that threatens the throughput of commercial traffic is going to threaten their survival. A lot of them are on very thin margins."



The surface of Mars as pictured in 1976 during the Viking landings

## Mars fact and fiction are still worlds apart

By NICHOLAS BOOTH

H.G. WELLS wrote about it. Orson Welles broadcast about it. David Bowie sang about it, but until now there has been no evidence of life on Mars.

It says there have been "dramatic" improvements in personal finances, with tax cuts and cash windfalls boosting household cash flows. And it says that imports are set to increase by 7 per cent next year — "one of the costs of a return to consumer-led growth" with the likely result an increase in the deficit to £4 billion this year and £10 billion in 1997.

The report suggests that Mr Clarke has succumbed to the temptation of interest rate cuts over recent months because of the Government's poor political standing. "There can be little doubt that the Chancellor is using the excuse of favourable trends in inflation to engineer a stronger consumer environment and it is hard not to conclude that political motive has dominated economic argument in the run-up to monetary policy."

It says that the Bank of England has made it clear that it is not convinced by the case for lower rates, but Eddie George, the Governor, "has been on the back foot since earlier advice to raise rates

probed on the surface. Vikings I and II returned eerie pictures of a rock-strewn surface beneath a pink sky. They then scooped up soil samples and analysed them in exhaustive detail. At best ambiguous, the results were that the lowliest microbes could not survive the harsh ultraviolet light from the Sun, for Mars has no protective layer of ozone.

Conspiracy theories routinely appear in supermarket tabloids in the United States. It was rumoured that NASA found evidence for methane on Mars — the product of biology — but the CIA suppressed it. An Italian writer claimed that the Viking probes took pictures of an ancient city. To some, a giant hill seen in a region called Cydonia appears like a face, and to others like a pyramid. And a rock photographed by Viking I at sunset, there appeared to be evidence of Martian graffiti — a letter B.

One was suggested that it stood for Barsoom — the name for Mars in Edgar Rice Burroughs novels from the 1920s.

The most recent probes to Mars all suffered from heart-breaking failures. But the next generation of probes will be launched this autumn with two Russian and two American missions heading towards the red planet.

As telescopes improved, so did the fanciful image of our neighbour in space. In the 19th century, astronomers reported seeing networks of canals which soon became equated with the desperate efforts of a dying civilisation trying to come to terms with the arid conditions on the red planet.

Percival Lowell, a Boston Brahmin, devoted his life to

studying the planet and drew literally hundreds of canals criss-crossing the surface. The problem was that few others saw them and they were an optical illusion. Contemporaries recall Lowell's eyesight was so acute that he could see telegraph wires many miles distant in the Arizona desert. The Lowell Observatory still stands on what was named Mars Hill in Flagstaff.

Lowell's promotion of the idea of Martians became very popular.

In 1902, when a French widow offered 100,000 francs to the first person to make contact with alien life, Mars was excluded on the grounds it would be too easy.

Others later suggested that giant mirrors be constructed in the desert to signal messages to our Martian brethren.

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The reality, alas, was rather more prosaic.

The first space probes in the 1960s revealed that Mars had a poisonous atmosphere of carbon dioxide and a pressure one-hundredth that on Earth. As more probes revealed a geologist's paradise of canyons, volcanoes and craters, the odds shortened towards Martian microbes. Yet the evidence for what appeared as dried up river beds hinted that if there was no life today, there may have been in the past. Mars may have been warmer and more clement in its earliest epochs, scientists believe.

The prospect of living microbes was scuttled 20 years ago when NASA landed two

rovers across the surface. Vikings I and II returned eerie pictures of a rock-strewn surface beneath a pink sky. They then scooped up soil samples and analysed them in exhaustive detail. At best ambiguous, the results were that the lowliest microbes could not survive the harsh ultraviolet light from the Sun, for Mars has no protective layer of ozone.

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The most recent probes to Mars all suffered from heart-breaking failures. But the next generation of probes will be launched this autumn with two Russian and two American missions heading towards the red planet.

They will land, dispatch rovers across the surface, and return further clues to the strange chemistry of a planet whose lure has never diminished in the popular and scientific imagination.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Railtrack directors' pay bill rises by 26%

Railtrack prompted a new "fat cat" row over rail privatisation yesterday when it disclosed that its directors' pay rose by 26 per cent in the year leading up to the flotation of the company.

Figures in Railtrack's glossy report and accounts for the year to the end of March, when it was still publicly owned, showed that the salaries, bonuses and fees paid to its board members rose from £930,000 to £1.18 million. Salaries to the chairman and executive members of the board increased by 30 per cent to £732,000. The highest-paid full-time director was Norman Broadhurst, the finance director, whose total salary package rose by nearly 18 per cent to £232,000. In the same period average staff costs fell by 7 per cent.

### Blood switch claim

A hospital orderly told a jury at Maidstone Crown Court, Kent, that he was shocked when his girlfriend told him that she had switched his blood sample to prevent him paying child maintenance to another woman. Timothy Anderson, 24, of Lenham, near Maidstone, denies perverting the course of justice. His girlfriend, Elizabeth Mills, 33, a hospital sister, has admitted the same charge. The hearing continues.

### Vets deny 'mutilation'

Farmers and vets needlessly and sometimes illegally mutilate millions of livestock every year, docking piglets, castrating lambs and calves and de-beaking hens as a matter of routine and often without anaesthetic. Compassion in World Farming said yesterday. The British Veterinary Association denied condoning illegality and said many of the practices were for the animals' long-term welfare.

### Strike halts Tubes again

The London Tube network was expected to be halted today by another 24-hour strike by drivers. Road congestion is likely to be increased by the action group Reclaim the Streets, which plans to block main routes with bicycles in support of the drivers. Leaders of the RMT union and Aslef said that the Government had interfered in the dispute over hours and that MPs saw continuation of the strike as a vote-winner.

### Hepatitis A cases

Three haemophiliacs aged between eight and 18, who used the same blood clotting agent, have contracted hepatitis A. It was disclosed yesterday. The children were diagnosed during routine check-ups at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. Although no firm link has been established between the clotting agent, Alpha VIII, and the infections, the hospital has withdrawn the product during an investigation.

### Firebomb attack on pub

A couple who run a public house had a firebomb thrown through their window yesterday, which they claim was because they stopped underage drinking. Tina Stacey, 41, and her husband Bob, of the Railway Inn in Winscombe, Somerset, had refused to serve a group of teenagers who then allegedly threatened them. Tyres on the Staceys' car were later slashed and bricks thrown through the window.

### Ferry close to disaster

A sailor nearly caused a disaster aboard a Belgian car ferry in March by opening the outer doors as the vessel was at full speed in mid-Channel. The Belgian Maritime Transport Authority said. It reported that the *Prince Albert* roll-on, roll-off ferry, which had about 200 people on board, was on its way from Ramsgate to Ostend on March 10 when the incident happened.

### Raffle prize matures

A woman who won a painting in the 1950s with a one-shilling raffle ticket has had it valued at £15,000. Alina Bilewicz, 77, who fought with the Polish Resistance before coming to Britain, is selling *Still Life with Spring Flowers*, painted by the Scottish artist Anne Redpath (1895-1965), which she won at an event staged by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in Aberdeen. It will be auctioned this month.

### Ulster talks collapse

Continued from page 1  
Apprentice Boys must win the consent of nationalists before holding parades anywhere else in Northern Ireland. He said: "The Apprentice Boys would have to state that where there was no consent for a parade on a particular road, they would abide by the wishes of the community."

His attempt to widen the negotiations beyond the Londonderry march infuriated the loyalists and fuelled their suspicion that Sinn Fein was dictating the agenda. The residents' group says it is separate from the party, although a press release from the group was distributed by Sinn Fein press office yesterday.

Alasdair Simpsom, governor of the Apprentice Boys, accused the nationalists of being dictatorial. He said: "It is a very sad for the whole of this city. We thought we had come to a situation where we could have gone forward together with everybody. Where are our civil rights when the

Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Dr James McHaffey, said last night that he was bitterly disappointed by the collapse of the negotiations. He told BBC Radio Ulster: "People I met in town this afternoon are in a depressed state because they realise what is at stake."

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## Allies turn on Redwood

By ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN REDWOOD is facing a growing backlash from Tory MPs over his string of "unrealistic" demands on the Government. Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor who stood aside for Mr Redwood in last year's leadership contest, has become increasingly estranged from his former ally.

Mr Lamont is infuriated by Mr Redwood's repeated assertions that £6 billion of spending cuts can be afforded with ease to finance reduction in taxes. One senior right wing Tory MP said: "It is unrealistic and it is tow-towing economics. Unrealistic calculations do

nothing for the Redwood cause. A period of pre-Budget purdah is advisable."

Tory MPs in the Michael Portillo camp, the other principal leadership contender, have seized the opportunity to try to discredit Mr Redwood. "It is loyalty which is required from all Tory MPs in the run-up to the election," said one Portillo supporter last night.

Veteran Tory MPs such as Sir Julian Critchley also entered the fray yesterday and urged Mr Redwood "to shut up" for the sake of the party. Quentin Davies, on the left of the Tory Party, also appealed for Mr Redwood to "get behind the party" and fight Labour.

But Mr Redwood denied

## Britons' murders unsolved

BY STEWART TENDER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FRENCH police, currently involved in the hunt for the killer of Caroline Dickinson, have a poor record in solving the murders of Britons. More than 20 have died since 1970 but three-quarters of the cases remain open.

Among them is that of John Cardwell, a former member of the SOE during the Second World War, who was killed in the South of France in 1973 while on holiday with his son Jeremy. The case roused echoes of the notorious murders of Sir John Drummond, another former member of SOE, killed with his wife and daughter in 1952 while on

holiday in the French Alps.

In 1982 two teachers on a cycling holiday, Lorraine Glassby, 28, and Paul Belljion, 29, from Norfolk, were tied up back to back, gagged and shot dead. Their bodies were found in a maize field in Brittany.

Joanna Parrish, 21, was raped, beaten and strangled as she picked wild flowers near Autun in Burgundy in 1990. Her parents have campaigned for six years to get French police to re-open the investigation.

Leslie Charlton, a 47-year-old woman who had lived in France for two years, and his Dutch-born wife were found bound and strangled in woods at Cressensac in central France, in 1991. Angela Hay,

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY  
Man is death of piglets  
by Richard Hedges  
1  
2  
3

# Man is kicked to death defending piglets from gang

By MICHAEL HORNELL

A MAN who went to the defence of a pair of pot-bellied piglets he kept in a pen in his back garden was kicked to death by a gang threatening to burn them alive.

Murder squad detectives launched a hunt for up to five men who attacked Ronald Smith, 49, after he confronted them outside his home near Birmingham.

Mr Smith's widow, Margaret, 42, who comforted her dying husband in her arms, said that he had got out of bed when he heard the men shouting and asked them from the window to be quiet. When they taunted him with threats against the nine-week-old pigs, Bill and Ben, he followed his son Joe, 20, out of the house, who had also gone out.

They threw something at his head. As he went down his head hit the kerb, then they carried on booting him as he lay there. I came over and Ron was lying on the road and he was still alive. Ron died in my arms. He was a lovely man who would help anybody.

Detectives, who appealed for witnesses to the attack, carried out a search of the pavement and grass bank on the council estate where Mr Smith was found and made house-to-house calls. A macheete was found at the scene.

Last night four men in their early twenties were helping police with their inquiries. Initially three were being questioned, and the fourth joined them after being treated at the City Hospital, Birmingham, for facial injuries.

Several neighbours of the family telephoned the police when they heard the affray outside the family's semi-detached home late on Monday night.

Joey went out to remonstrate with the youths because of the threat and to tell them to stop shouting. He followed them round the estate and then they met up with my



Smith: kept the piglets in a pen in his garden

tashed home late on Monday night.

A neighbour of the Smiths, Emma Jones, 24, said: "He was a nice bloke who was going to let my two children feed the pigs. He has had pigs before but he has only had these two for four weeks and he keeps them in a pen in the garden."

Lynda Wright, another neighbour, said: "These yobs were running through the houses with baseball bats and blades looking for trouble. We get this sort of thing all the time around here, when they're not stealing your car or radio. I ran out to help Ron. He was a great bloke and would help anyone out yet never take anything for it."

Detective Chief Inspector Ellie Baker said: "This was a tragic incident which is being treated as a murder inquiry. There were a lot of people gathered at the scene and I ask them to call us with information."

"I understand voices were heard shouting abuse outside the Smiths' house about their pigs. The pigs were kept as pets and were nine weeks old. Mr Smith followed his son out of the house and we believe he was involved in a fight in the alleyway. The fight then moved across the road onto the grass verge where the body was found. We know Mr Smith was in bed when he heard the gang shouting outside his house. His son went out first and he followed. The son came back but Mr Smith did not."

Mr Smith suffered facial injuries and a cut to the back of his head, but a post mortem found no cause of death and further tests would be carried out.

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## Howard loses over China

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BUSINESSMAN who fears the death penalty if forced to stand trial in Hong Kong on £4.5 million corruption charges won a reprieve against extradition yesterday as the Home Secretary suffered another blow at the hands of the judiciary.

Two judges ruled in the High Court that Michael Howard misdirected himself when he ordered the return of Ewan Launder, aged 60, to the Crown colony which will be ceded to China next year.

Lord Justice Henry said the court allowed Mr Launder

to remain on the basis that the People's Republic of China would fulfil its treaty obligations with Britain and the fugitive would receive a fair trial and humane treatment.

The judge said it was clear Mr Howard "felt himself bound by the collective Cabinet decision" when in fact he should have exercised his personal judgment "on the real risks of breach of the treaty safeguards". Mr Launder argued that safeguards to a fair trial would not survive.

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## London falls to Independence Day

By DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

HOLLYWOOD descended on London last night to stage the largest film launch seen in Britain. *Independence Day*, an £80 million blockbuster about aliens in spaceships the size of cities, has broken box-office records in America, and is expected to do the same here.

The film, whose stars include special effects designers who blow up the White House and enlarge 12ft models of space-

ships into versions 15 miles wide, is launched on Friday in 560 cinemas. a record.

The European premiere at the Odeon Leicester Square comes only a month after its American opening. The idea of such closely-timed openings would have been unthinkable just two years ago, but distributors are now keen to capitalise on the marketing push in America.

Among several American blockbusters coming to Britain during the coming months are Arnold Schwarzenegger's

*Eraiser*, *101 Dalmatians*, *Escape From LA* by John Carpenter; *Jack* with Robin Williams; and *Dragonheart* with Dennis Quaid, Julie Christie and the voice of Sean Connery.

*Independence Day* has already taken £150 million in America, where critics raved. One wrote: "Independence Day is how Cecil B. De Mille would have done *War of the Worlds* if he'd had the opportunity — and the money."

Arts, page 30

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Arts, page 30

## Bryan is declared bankrupt

By EMMA WILKINS

JOHN BRYAN, the Duchess of York's former financial adviser, was made bankrupt yesterday after failing to pay debts of £60,000 to creditors including the Duchess's sister.

Under the terms of the bankruptcy order issued at the High Court in London, Mr Bryan has 21 days to complete forms giving details of his

bank accounts and other financial affairs. He could be arrested if he fails to comply with the Official Receiver.

His worldwide assets can be seized to pay creditors including the Duchess's sister, Jane Luedcke, American Express Europe and Penningtons, a firm of solicitors.

Mr Bryan lives in Los Angeles. Randolph Abood, his lawyer, said: "He is disappointed that there was no movement to settle this case."

Mrs Luedcke and her husband, Reiner, are seeking payment of £30,000 costs which they incurred during a two-year legal battle with Mr Bryan over exclusive coverage of their wedding in *Hello!* magazine. Kathryn Garbett, their solicitor, said they were delighted with the ruling. The Duchess made no comment.



Poole: was "guarded" in choice of clothes

Roman Britain, page 7



## Early Roman fort unearthed by the long hot summer

By PETER FOSTER

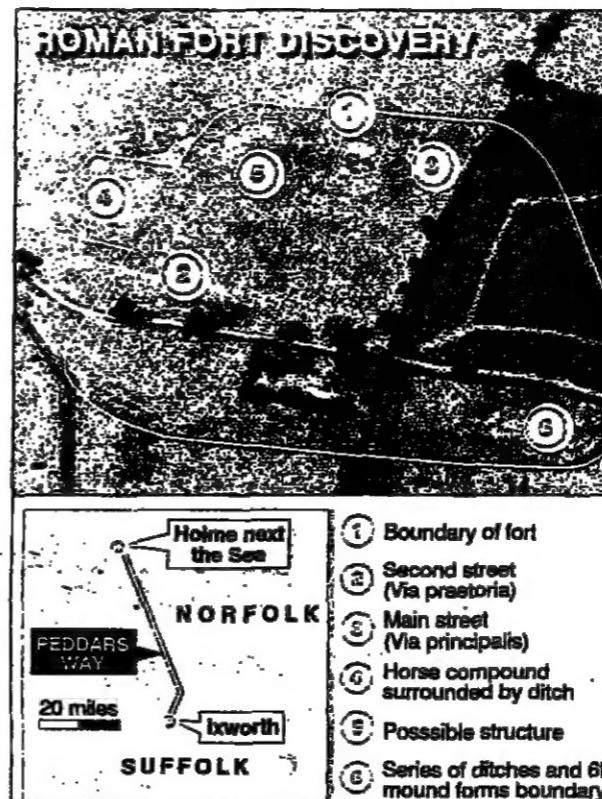
THE remains of an early Roman fort built to impose order on Boudicca and the marauding Iceni have been discovered in Norfolk.

The 16-acre site came to light in an aerial survey because of the dry summer. The remains, which straddle the 50-mile Roman road Peddars Way, were spotted as dark markings in a crop of potatoes.

David Gurney, principal landscape archaeologist at the Norfolk Museums Service, said he believed the fortification dated to the period of Boudicca's uprising against occupying Roman forces in AD 60-61. "This discovery is of national importance and will tell us much about early military activity in Norfolk and East Anglia," he said. "We knew a fort was established here after the Roman invasion in AD 43, but this is a second, larger site which we think was built by the Roman administration to exercise tighter control on the Iceni tribe."

The spectacularly dry summer has meant that the ditches surrounding the fort have acted as a reservoir for plants. In the drought these plants grow higher than the rest, revealing the outline of the Roman remains.

"The fort is based on a



standard design common throughout the Roman Empire.

The main defences included three deep ditches and a timber palisade. The outer ditch, 20-30ft wide, was designed to stop attackers at a safe distance and suggest the

use of artillery, probably in the form of catapults.

The fort is thought to have been built as a temporary structure populated by up to 2,000 soldiers housed in wooden barracks. As well as a military headquarters the

compound would have contained granaries, workshops and craftsmen needed to support the Roman force. The main gates are also thought to have been made out of timber, possibly flanked by two towers.

Mr Gurney, who specialises in the Roman period, said: "The fort was occupied for no longer than a decade. If it had lasted any longer then stone would probably have been used. The whole area would have been divided up by a grid street system with the headquarters building in the middle. Craftsmen would be employed to maintain the military equipment. Spear shafts were also in constant demand because Roman spears were designed to break on landing to prevent the enemy throwing them back."

Outside the main perimeter the survey reveals a smaller area surrounded by a ditch, possibly used as a corral for cavalry horses. The location of the find is being kept secret to stop an invasion of metal detector enthusiasts damaging the site.

The survey, funded by the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments of England, also revealed an Iron Age Long Barrow and a late Roman villa.

Roman Britain, page 7

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Doctor claims he was set up as presenter hosted a show on her daughter's ME condition

## BBC defends Rantzen over TV 'shout-in' claim

BY CAROL MIDGLEY AND LIN JENKINS

**T**HE BBC defended Esther Rantzen from accusations of bias yesterday over the way she conducted a programme on the treatment of the condition known as ME, which afflicts her 18-year-old daughter Emily.

Television reviewers criticised the programme as a "shout-in", and Dr Thomas Stuttaford said he had been set up to be attacked by the invited audience. A BBC spokesman said that Miss Rantzen "effectively combines passion with top-class journalism".

Dr Stuttaford, the *Times* columnist and former Tory MP, was booed and hissed on BBC1's *The Rantzen Report* when he suggested that ME could be a psychiatric illness rather than a virus. He said that, rather than being invited to represent the 75 per cent of GPs who did not believe that ME was an illness in its own right, he was used as a scapegoat for angry and frustrated members of the audience.

"I don't want to criticise Esther Rantzen, whom I rather like," he said. "But when I was asked to appear, I explained it was a highly contentious issue and it was important to have a rational, detached discussion, not a Kilroy-Silk type programme



Stuttaford: said rational discussion was important

where mob rule can prevail. They were hostile, I think, partly because there are people who have not yet learned to regard psychiatric disease as a proper illness. They are still seeing it as a moral weakness. They feel they have lost the son or daughter they knew and want to take their anger out on someone. And who better than a doctor?

"I was set up, no doubt about that. There was I, in my red socks and dark blue suit, typifying the English Trad. I was like Daniel walking into the lion's den. I don't think I have ever met such aggression and stubborn refusal to listen to, let alone understand, any opinion that was contrary to their own."

"My main grumble, in fact,

had plenty of time to make his point. Esther Rantzen is one of the BBC's most experienced interviewers who, with her campaigns on child abuse, organ transplants and bullying to name but a few, have demonstrated that she effectively combines passion with top-class journalism."

The broadcaster, who has nursed her daughter for the past two years, said that many doctors dismissed ME — myalgic encephalomyelitis — as a malingerer's charter. Some television critics said Miss Rantzen abandoned objectivity during the programme and began talking about ME as if it were an established fact.

Victor Lewis-Smith, reviewing the programme in the *London Evening Standard*, condemned it for showing no desire to seek the truth, and said he was taking the unprecedented step of sending a copy to the BBC Director-General and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

He said the show was driven by malice on the part of Miss Rantzen and served merely to belittle and indoctrinate in an ill-considered, inconsiderate, manipulative and unscrupulous manner. I do not know what grip she has on the upper echelons at the BBC, but she seems to be holding the Corporation to Rantzen. She puts the network to shame."

Peter Paterson, in the *Daily*



Rantzen with her daughter Emily: the BBC said that she combined passion with top-class journalism

*Mail*, said Miss Rantzen was right to start with the ambivalence that many doctors had towards ME, but he went on: "I was sorry to see the great place Marlowe Bond in *The Times* described Dr Stuttaford as being thrown to the lions when presenting the opposing view to Ms Rantzen and her 'far from impartial studio audience'. He added: "As you would expect from a *Times* man, Dr Stuttaford went down fighting but it was still a dreadful sight to behold."

Anita Chaudhuri, reviewing the programme for *The*

*Guardian*, said that it failed to throw up anything new about the causes of ME. "However, a studio full of sufferers and supporters, all of whom were programmed to boo and heckle the moment any medical expert mentioned the words 'form of depression' did make for good television. The trouble with ME is that, now Esther Rantzen's got on the bandwagon, it's going to be very difficult to get her off. Boo, hiss."

Staford Hildred in *The Sun* sided with Miss Rantzen, who had a "personal passion to get to the truth — when it comes to tripping up the pompous voice of authority and letting the people speak. Esther has few equals. The smug doctors were a lot less convincing than the people whose lives had been wrecked by ME."

## Protecting a source can cloud the issue

**S**ome years ago, when I used to write the *Times* Diary, I came across a very good story about a bizarre mass beating at a famous public school. I carefully checked with both the boy who told me the story and his parents to make certain they had no objection to the story being used.

After it appeared as a paragraph in *The Times* it made headline news in all the tabloid newspapers. The family concerned, who remain very good friends, were always convinced they had never given permission for this, but they had — it was just that they had no idea when they agreed to the incident being made public how explosive an issue it was.

Philip Bennett, the obstetrician at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, west London, is probably one of the most surprised people in Britain today. What he presumably thought would be an interview of limited interest with journalist has become one of the most debated subjects in medical ethics in the past decade.

The incident of the wholesale thrashing taught me a lesson. Now when patients, or others, tell me that they are very happy for me to use the facts of their case I make certain that they understand every possible consequence.

The general public are appalled by Professor Bennett's decision to carry out a late

abortion on one twin on the grounds of economic and social expediency. Most people accept that if after *in vitro* fertilisation too many of the implanted embryos are developing, so that the life of them all is jeopardised, the destruction of one or more so that the rest may survive is rational, necessary, but regrettable.

Doctors are there not only to hand out prescriptions and wield forceps or the scalpel, but also have to look after the patient's material welfare. Poverty and the mother's incapacity to cope with it were the reasons given for the abortion and it therefore seems illogical to withhold the knowledge that £50,000 had been offered to preserve the life of the child.

Nobody who is concerned with twins would deny that they make a great deal of extra work and destroy sleep in the first few months of their lives. But fostering of the twins followed by a return to the mother when they are older and do not require such continuous care would have seemed a less contentious solution.

The public have been even more amazed by the news that a possible answer to the financial and material problems of the mother's household were not to be handed down to her. The argument

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

## Rising young star offered wealth of opportunities

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY AND CAROL MIDGLEY

**P**HILLIP BENNETT is one of the world's leading young researchers into the prevention of miscarriages. Colleagues believe that his reputation should easily survive the furore over the aborted twin. He has just rejected the chance to double his salary in the United States in order to accept a professor's chair at Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

Professor Bennett is one of the bright young stars in British obstetrics and gynaecology. Lord Winston, the test-tube baby pioneer, said: "He has done a lot of exciting work on the prevention of premature labour and he is a person a very large number of units in this country and

overseas were trying to recruit."

Professor Bennett, 37, has been married for six years to a midwife and is childless by choice. He was on a consultant's salary of about £45,000 at Queen Charlotte's last year when St George's, the teaching hospital in Tooting, south London, made clear that he was a prime candidate for its vacant chair of Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The job would have entailed running a department and teaching students. He decided against it.

Knowing that King's College Hospital, London, and several foreign institutions were also keen to recruit him, Queen Charlotte's offered him a highly cherished "personal" chair. This carries a starting salary of about £55,000, but leaves him free to pursue his research without the burden of administrative duties or lecturing.

Professor Bennett is investigating how molecular biology can be applied to obstetrics to prevent miscarriages. Most professors have little to do with abortions, which are mainly left to more junior

doctors, but he is one of the few in Britain with the skill to perform a selective termination in a multiple pregnancy.

He was formerly a registrar at St George's, where Stuart Stanton, a consultant, said: "He is a good doctor clinically and a very bright researcher. I am sure he will weather this storm."

The story began with a remark by Professor Bennett to Caroline Phillips of the *Sunday Express* during an interview last Wednesday in the wake of the frozen embryo controversy. Ms Phillips, who had her baby at the hospital and is a member of its advisory committee, was to have written an article about the moral dilemmas facing doctors who carry out abortions.

"We talked about a whole range of issues, such as when a foetus can feel pain, the ethics of carrying out abortions at 40 weeks and the abortion pill," she said. "The story came out when I asked him what was the most difficult dilemma he had ever faced." The professor had been consulted about the final story before publication.

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# School admission appeals increase 160% in six years

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A RECORD number of parents are trying to win their children places at popular schools but more are being disappointed, Whitehall figures disclosed yesterday. Appeals for admission to their first-choice school rose 20 per cent last year, but the success rate at formal hearings fell.

More parents are hiring barristers to represent them at appeal panels. Others have lied about their address, pretended to be religious churchgoers or invented medical conditions for their children to try to win appeals.

Government promises of parental choice and a growing awareness of rights of appeal were blamed yesterday for a 160 per cent rise in appeals over six years. In 1994-95, 54,427 appeals were lodged, of which 38,032 were heard and 14,839 were successful. The previous year, 45,876 appeals were lodged, 32,188 were heard and 13,255 were successful — 41 per cent compared with 39 per cent last year.

Saxon Spence, chairwoman of the Association of County Councils' education committee, said: "It has become a bit of a nightmare in some areas. Part of the solution must be making sure your schools are equally attractive so people are happy with their local

school rather than shopping around."

Mrs Spence, also education chairwoman in Devon, said: "We have had several extraordinary cases in Devon where children are within half a mile of their local school but because it is full they have got to go miles away."

The appeals are organised by the local education authority, but have an independent chairman. Tony Barron, education chairman in Hampshire, said: "Parents will give false addresses or say their children are living with grandparents who live near the school. They will say their children are 'bus phobic' or that they have to go to a particular school because they go to work in that direction. We rely on officers of the county council to go and check the address and make sure all the reasons given by parents for the appeal are correct."

The spokesman said: "All parents have a right to appeal if they are refused a place and more parents are becoming aware of this right. The vast majority of parents do get a place at a school for which they have expressed a preference."

"It is thanks to this Government that parents have a second chance through the appeals system, and 40 per cent of them are successful."



Kelly Holmes, who ran in the 800m and 1,500m with a leg injury, limping into Gatwick yesterday



Michelle Smith with her three golds and a bronze

## Dublin welcomes Olympic heroine

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

**MICHELLE SMITH**, Ireland's triple Olympic champion, arrived in Dublin to a heroine's welcome yesterday. Clutching her three gold and one bronze medals, she stepped from the plane into torrential rain.

The weather cut the numbers who turned out to greet her and the rest of the Irish team: 60,000 had been expected to attend a rally in the city centre, but only about 6,000 braved the rain. The welcome was in stark contrast to the low-key affair at Gatwick, where only a few friends and families gathered to meet the returning British team.

In Dublin, Smith was first off the plane and was greeted on the tarmac by Mary Robinson, the Irish President, who congratulated her on her be-

haviour inside and outside the pool. The swimmer's unexpected success in Atlanta led to suggestions that she was using drugs to enhance her performance, an allegation that Smith denied repeatedly.

She and the other athletes travelled in open-topped buses from the airport to the General Post Office in O'Connell Street, where bands entertained, balloons were released and congratulatory banners were draped from homes, offices and shops.

At Gatwick, the biggest cheers were reserved for the oarsman Matthew Pinsent, who with Steve Redgrave won Britain's solitary gold medal, and for the silver medal winners Roger Black and Steve Backley.

## Fan jailed for attack on goalie

A football fan who attacked a goalkeeper during a match was jailed for a year yesterday. Eric Harvie, 26, of Edinburgh, jumped on the Rangers player Andy Goram, apparently to try to force the abandonment of the game. Harvie's team, Hibernian, was losing 2-0. Goram twisted free and restrained Harvie. Sheriff Farrell, at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, said the assault "could have triggered major public disorder".

## Boy dies in crash

A 14-year-old boy died and three other teenagers were badly injured when a stolen car crashed at high speed into a wall at Corse, near Gloucester. The youngsters had absconded from care in Apperley, Tewkesbury.

## Shand Kydd case

Frances Shand Kydd, 60, mother of the Princess of Wales, was charged with driving with excess alcohol and failing to provide a breath sample at Oban Sheriff Court. The case was adjourned until August 12.

## Skeleton mystery

A woman aged 70, arrested after a skeleton was found in a balcony flower bed, has been released pending inquiries. The skeleton, of an elderly woman, was unearthed outside a flat in St John's Wood, northwest London.

## Fire boy caution

A boy aged 11 was cautioned after having started fires causing £100,000 damage in central Portsmouth. A police spokesman said: "Having regard to all circumstances and his mental state, it was decided a caution was appropriate."

## Sea rescue

Brighton West Pier, the only Grade I listed pier, is to be saved from irreparable sea damage by almost £1 million of National Lottery grants, including an initial grant of £950,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

## Hamilton tribute

The widow of Geoff Hamilton, presenter of BBC2's *Gardens' World*, has agreed to allow the final programme he recorded to be shown on Friday as a tribute. Mr Hamilton, 59, died during a charity bicycle ride on Sunday.

## CORRECTION

A television review of *Inside Story: The Lady Gun* (August 1) wrongly stated that one woman kept her gun in an unlocked kitchen cupboard. In fact the weapon is kept in a locked gun safe within the cupboard.

Where all lead to Ro

## Tory's son on murder charge

THE son of a leading Conservative Party fundraiser was charged with his murder yesterday. Nicholas Bull, 28, a car salesman, was remanded for seven days by magistrates in Norwich.

Robert Bull, 59, a retired Post Office executive, was discovered on Sunday at his home in Costessey, Norfolk, where his son, a former vice-chairman of the Costessey Conservative Association, also lives. Mr Bull died from haemorrhaging and shock from shotgun wounds.

## Jail order for 'nice people'

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO "peace protesters" were sentenced to 28 days in prison yesterday after they refused to accept a court order to keep the peace. Richard Smith, 24, a Red Cross worker, and David Durham, 33, were found guilty of a public order offence when they tried to gain entry to a British Aerospace factory in Brough, Yorkshire.

Pocklington Magistrates' Court was told that the pair should realise they were not martyrs: they were not being sentenced for their part in the demonstration, but for not accepting court punishment. He said: "I have some sympathy for your position. The last thing I want

to do is send particularly nice people like you to jail."

However, an appeal was immediately lodged and the two protesters were granted unconditional bail pending a hearing at Hull Crown Court.

After the decision, Smith, of Birmingham, said he believed the magistrate had been wrong.

"As the case last week showed we have a lawful excuse to demonstrate at British Aerospace bases to stop genocide. I refuse to be bound over because I will be going back to protest at the atrocities in East Timor."

## Bradford draws line under Hockney's school

By KATE ALDERSON

THE Victorian school where David Hockney developed his love of art as a child is to be demolished to make way for houses.

Hockney, 59, who was born and raised in Bradford but now lives in Los Angeles, was a pupil at the Wellington School in Eccleshill in the 1940s. He attended the junior school between the ages of 8 and 11 and spent many hours doodling there.

One of his earliest works, a doodle showing a teacher grabbing a small child by the scruff of the neck, was drawn while he was a pupil. The derelict 120-year-old school, which has a Gothic spire, was vandalised after it closed in 1993.

Bradford council has sold the property for about £250,000 to Alien Homes and the school will be bulldozed in the next fortnight. Its connection with the famous artist was not discovered until re-



Hockney's doodle of life as a pupil at the school

different from when I lived there. It was a Victorian city."

He said he had happy memories of his old school and remembered its teachers as old fashioned but kindly and encouraging. "I remember teachers telling us the war was over and I ran home to tell my mother in case she didn't know," he said.

The school will make way for 27 new homes. Three-quarters of the sale price will be used by the council to renovate other crumbling schools.

Ray Staniland, head of property services, said the school was not a listed building and the demolition programme had been brought forward because of extensive vandalism.

The Hockney connection came out only recently, but it would have made no difference as the building is not listed," he said.

No opposition to the school's demolition has been received by the council.

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**Shotgun farmer was scared to death'**

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FARMER who shot an intruder told police that he fired because he thought the man was going to kill him. Kenneth Hall, 63, said he never intended to hit Neil Hartley, 32, who was breaking into a car at his farm.

Mr Hall told police that, when he realised there was an intruder, "I was frightened to death. I didn't know what was out there, so I got the 12-bore out."

Mr Hall, of Thurstontown, west Yorkshire, said he put the lights on and let the dog out before going outside, where he saw Hartley kneeling by the car with his hand inside it. He told police: "He jumped up. He must have seen me with the gun. He said something to the effect of, 'I'll get you, you bastard. I've got a knife.'

"I was frightened. As he was running round the car towards me, I went up with the gun, intending to shoot over his head. It went off," he said.

Hartley, from Huddersfield, who admitted theft at a hearing in December, told Bradford Crown Court yesterday that he had been running away from Mr Hall when he was hit. A Home Office scientist concluded that the shotgun had been behind Hartley when it was fired. Mr Hall denies causing grievous bodily harm with intent and an alternative charge of grievous bodily harm without intent. The case continues.

**Antarctic scientists prone to infection**

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

DOCTORS are baffled by a discovery that scientists working in Antarctica suffer from impaired immune systems. The finding fits in with anecdotal evidence that people coming home from a summer in Antarctica are unusually prone to colds and other minor infections in the first few weeks.

The population in Antarctica consists of fit people in the prime of life. They are spared infection largely because of the pristine conditions of the continent and its isolation, says Des Lugg, an Australian who has worked there.

But when infections arrive, they can spread rapidly. "The very big worry is that, if we introduced something dangerous down there, they would be unable to deal with it," said Dr Lugg, who is in Cambridge this week for an Antarctic conference.

Two Antarctic workers contracted hepatitis when they had themselves tattooed in New Zealand. When they returned to the Antarctic, the disease spread so rapidly that the research station had to be closed for a season.

Dr Lugg suggested that the increased ultra-violet light might be affecting the hormones and the immune system indirectly, or that the strain of isolation could affect the brain and the hormones, with similar results.

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Rachel Campbell-Johnston, page 13  
Shackleton auction, page 16

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York rivalled London as a centre of military power and as the temporary capital of the Empire

## Unruly Tykes stretched Ninth Legion to the limit

BY ALAN HAMILTON

EVEN the Romans found Yorkshiremen difficult. Displaying the cussed independence of mind that marks them out to this day, they showed a marked reluctance to come to the imperial heel when called, and the Emperor Vespasian had to order up the Ninth Legion to sort them out.

Yorkshire was fine when it was run by a woman — a notion that present-day members of the county cricket club may find a little tough to digest. During the earliest years of occupation the Brigantes, the loose federation of northern English and southern Scottish tribes, had been well disposed towards the incomers. Their queen, Cartimandua, had a deal with the Romans that she would keep the peace in the north from her headquarters at Stanwick, near the modern town of Richmond.

But in AD 71 she lost the throne to her estranged husband, Venutius, who led the north in revolt. In that same year the Ninth moved north from its former base at Lincoln and established a new fort and headquarters at Eboracum, from which it directed all subjugation and peace-keeping in the north for the next three centuries.

York grew in size and stature, its defences occasionally strengthened and enlarged, until it rivalled London in wealth and importance.

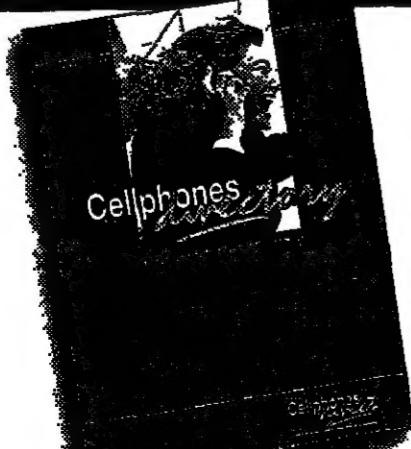
### Where all roads lead to Romans

ROMAN York is easily accomplished on foot, and takes in much else on the way in a city seriously overprovided with tourist honeypots. Begin at Museum Gardens — five minutes' walk from York station, with a visit to the Yorkshire Museum.

Its centrepiece is a bust of Constantine, but the recently redesigned galleries house an excellent collection of grave-stones, artefacts and the famous hank of Roman hair, plus good explanatory material on the Roman occupation of northern Britain, excellent floor mosaic and fragments of decorative wall plaster from the camp at Catterick (they were there long before latter-day conscripts reported for National Service).

From the museum, inspect the adjoining Multangular Tower, a substantial survivor of the Roman defences, then walk alongside the Roman wall to Bootham Bar, one of York's medieval gateways.

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The perfectly preserved hairpiece found in a cemetery

When the northerners were being particularly troublesome, the Emperor himself journeyed from Rome and set up his court there to direct operations. It became Aldershot and Windsor rolled into one, a major garrison town and, with the Emperor in residence, temporary capital of the Roman empire.

Hadrian probably visited York during his wall-building mission in 122. Severus died there while campaigning against the recalcitrant Caledonians in 211; and Constantine was proclaimed Emperor there in 306 while fighting with his father.

Substantial and impressive sections of the fortress's outer wall, its plan in the standard

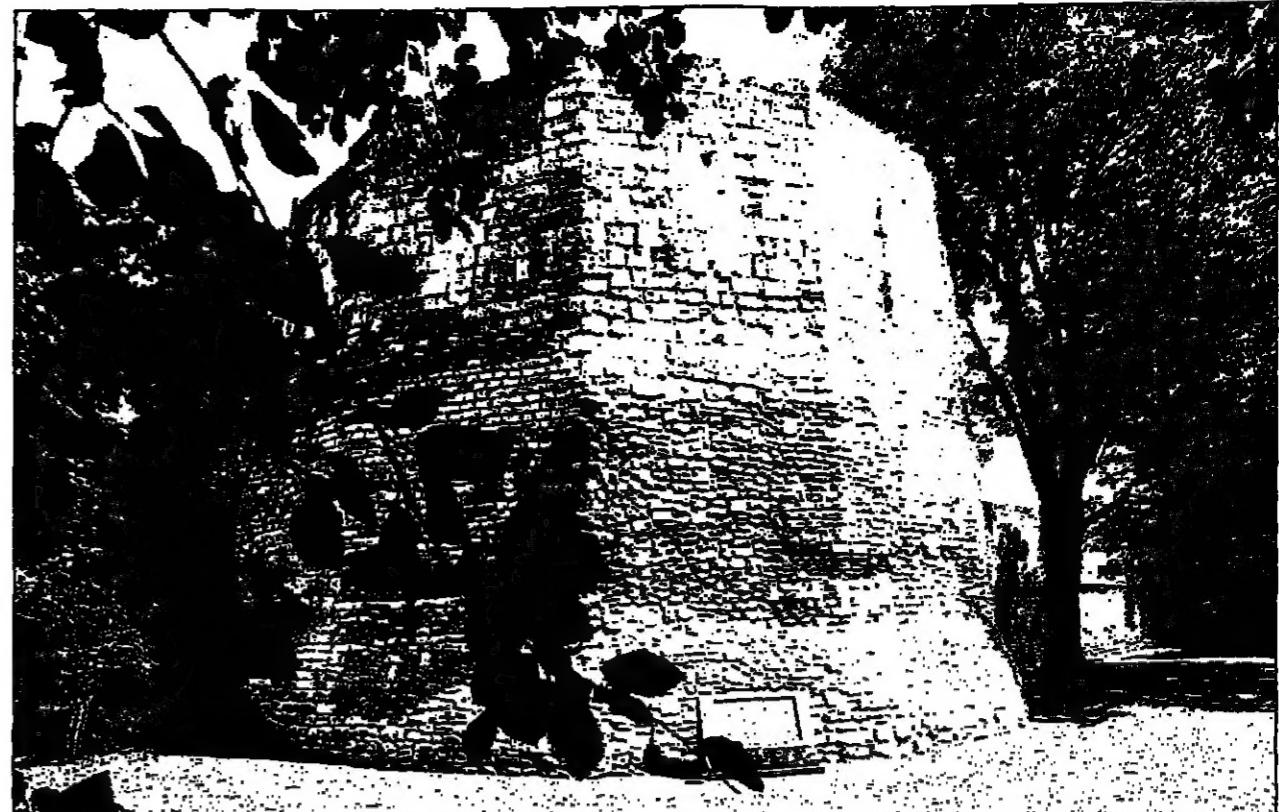
Roman shape of a playing card, are visible in the city centre, but the buildings of modern York mean that excavation is restricted. Little has been uncovered of the fort, and even less of the substantial *colonia*, or civilian town, that grew up opposite on the south bank of the Ouse.

Last century the builders of York railway station uncov-

ered traces of a massive bathhouse complex. Digging elsewhere, particularly in the Roman cemeteries, has unearthed a superb and virtually complete floor mosaic and several magnificent and ornate tombstones, indicating a wealthy, cosmopolitan and cultured city that attracted soldiers, merchants and the rich and influential from all corners of the empire.

The 3rd century tomb of a lady called Julia Velva, now in the Yorkshire Museum, is especially fine, showing the lady herself reclining on a chaise-longue with a wine jar in her hand and her husband and children around her. But the museum's most poignantly human exhibit is a perfectly preserved hank of beautiful auburn hair held with two carved jet hairpins, assumed to be the hairpiece of a glamorous inhabitant of 3rd century York, and recovered from a nearby cemetery.

During the 1960s, when the central tower of York Minster was pronounced in serious danger of collapse, archaeologists had an immense stroke of good luck. As engineers dug



The tower that formed the northwestern corner of the Ninth Legion's fortress at Eboracum. Only the base is Roman

deep in the undercroft to install massive new concrete underpinning, they came across the remains of the fort's basilica, the long columned room forming the centrepiece of the military headquarters.

In its Roman heyday, York

was a city of large, elegant,

expensively decorated, centrally heated and fully plumbed town houses occupied by persons of quality. By that late stage in the Roman era, some of them may even have been Yorkshiremen.

TOMORROW: Chester

A Roman recipe from the 1st century AD is among the exhibits in the Roman Galleries of the Yorkshire Museum:

Put asparagus tips in a mortarum (heavy bowl) and pound. Add wine, garum (a fish sauce related to *Læs* and *Pernice*' Worcesterhire sauce) and oil. Put purées and spices into a greased shallow dish and, if you like, add a few anchovies. Cook on the fire so that the mixture softens. Sprinkle finely ground pepper over it and serve.

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306



## Republican heavy guns concentrate their fire on 'vulnerable' First Lady

FROM TOM RHODES  
IN WASHINGTON

LEADING Republicans, convinced that Hillary Clinton has become her husband's greatest liability, yesterday claimed that the First Lady was personally involved in clandestine efforts to fire seven members of the White House travel office.

The allegations, which contradict Mrs Clinton's sworn testimony

about her role in the so-called "Travelgate" scandal, came as Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, was said to be expanding his Whitewater investigation to seek further indictments by the end of September, only five weeks before the presidential election.

A Republican review of White House records has indicated Mrs Clinton demanded that two top aides take action against the White House travel staff two days before

they were sacked in May 1993. Mack McLarty, the former White House chief of staff, and Harry Thomason, the Hollywood producer and Clinton acolyte, both told Congress that Mrs Clinton had played a part in the débâcle.

"I believe the First Lady had a serious concern about this matter, and I felt pressure from her to take it seriously and to act upon it if necessary," said Mr McLarty in congressional documents made

public for the first time yesterday. Mr Thomason, who choreographed the Clinton inauguration and later sought a position at the White House, testified that Mrs Clinton told him the travel office staff "must be gone out".

Mrs Clinton's possible role in the firings first surfaced in a 1993 memo drafted by David Watkins, the former head of White House administration. The note said that there would be "hell to pay" if he

did not purge the travel office in line with the First Lady's wishes to "get our people in and get those people out".

William Clinger, the Republican chairman of the House government reform and oversight committee, said the congressional review of meetings, telephone calls and contacts, including a limited examination of 2,000 pages being withheld by the White House under executive privilege, supported the

memo. Mr Watkins claimed he had been forced to take action under pressure from Mrs Clinton. Mr McLarty, Mr Thomason and Vincent Foster, the former deputy counsel found shot dead in a park outside Washington soon afterwards.

"Why did the White House go to such lengths to prevent us from knowing this?" Mr Clinger asked. "Mr Clinton's claims of executive privilege are for his political sec-

urity, not national security." The release by Congress of testimony given in June reflects a new Republican impetus behind the Whitewater and travel office investigations after last week's partial acquittal of two Arkansas bankers which the White House claimed as a victory for the President. Herby Branscum and Robert Hill had been accused of misusing funds to promote Mr Clinton's political career.

## Dole plan for tax cuts at odds with 'feelgood' factor

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IT HAS taken many months, but Bob Dole has finally produced a genuine issue on which to fight November's presidential election.

With Monday's call for massive tax cuts to "unshackle the US economy from the big-government ball-and-chain", the Republican nominee has at last drawn a clear distinction between himself and President Clinton and rallied his party's conservative base before next week's convention.

Mr Dole is reclaiming the pro-growth standard that gave the Republicans three successive White House victories in the 1980s. He is embracing the populism and blithe economic optimism that served Ronald Reagan so well, but whether that formula can still work in the mid-1990s is

highly questionable. Despite a wave of hostile editorials and Wall Street scepticism yesterday, Republicans insist it will. They say its continuing potency was proved by Christine Todd Whitman's dramatic victory in New Jersey's 1993 gubernatorial election after promising 30 per cent tax cuts.

The White House's feverish reaction to Mr Dole's announcement showed it too fears the promise of drastically reduced taxation still resonates with voters. Within hours it was broadcasting advertisements in about 25 key states that accused Mr Dole of "gambling with our future" with a "risky last-minute scheme that would balloon the deficit". Mr Dole's promise of \$54 billion (£35 billion) in tax cuts over the next six years,

including a 15 per cent across-the-board income tax reduction, just might prove the elixir its floundering campaign desperately needs, but equally it could prove suicidal.

Mr Dole's strategy is based on the assumption that Americans are as economically discontented as they were after the malaise of the Carter years in 1980, or again in 1992 when President Bush's apparent lack of a plan for ending the recession cost him his job.

But opinion polls and other data suggest that it is not the case. With his customary lack of serendipity, Mr Dole made his announcement on the day America's index of leading economic indicators reached a record high. Last week government figures showed the economy expanding at a robust 4.2 per cent, hardly the "anaemic" growth of which Mr Dole complained. Inflation, interest rates and unemployment are all very low, and the federal deficit has halved during Mr Clinton's first term.

The benefits of America's economic recovery have been unevenly distributed, but a new poll in *The Washington Post* shows Americans trust Mr Clinton more than Mr Dole on economic issues and 56 per cent approve of the President's economic performance — his highest rating since February 1993. Half the respondents felt better off under Mr Clinton and only 29 per cent worse off.

After 15 years in which the national debt has quintupled to \$5,000 billion, voters are also far more aware of the corrosive effects of endless annual deficits. The same Washington Post poll showed that 53 per cent would rather see the budget balanced than their taxes cut.

Mr Dole is, of course, promising to cut taxes and balance the budget, but most economists and many newspaper editorialists yesterday dismissed his assumption that tax cuts would generate an extra \$217 billion through faster growth.

The Republican manifesto in every election since 1976 has called for a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion, but it has become a symbol of the party's perceived intolerance and polls indicate nearly three-quarters of the electorate opposing such an extreme position.

In June, Mr Dole launched an attempt to soften it. He said that the call for a constitutional amendment should be accompanied by a "declaration of tolerance" that would state:

"We also recognise that members of our party have deeply held, and sometimes differing, views on issues of personal conscience like abortion and capital punishment." He told an interviewer: "It has been resolved. It is non-negotiable."

On Monday night conservatives forced Mr Dole to back down by threatening to disrupt the convention. They deleted from his proposal any reference to "tolerance" in relation to abortion.

## Hardliners destroy deal on abortion

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN conservatives have dealt Bob Dole a humiliating blow in the run-up to next week's Republican convention by defeating his attempt to soften the party's rigid anti-abortion stand.

A coalition of the Religious Right and Pat Buchanan supporters on the committee drawing up the party's manifesto in San Diego this week rejected the compromise language the Republican presidential nominee had suggested this summer.

"Pro-choice" Republicans said that Mr Dole's defeat would gravely undermine his efforts to attract the crucial votes of moderate suburbanites, especially women, this November. The White House said Mr Dole's defeat showed that the Religious Right now controlled the Republican Party. "Tolerance went out of the window in favour of Pat Buchanan and Pat Robertson," Mike McCurry, President Clinton's spokesman, said.

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## Steamy 'Lolita' scares off Americans

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES



JEREMY IRONS, one of Britain's most respected exports to Hollywood, may never be seen by American audiences in his next film because it depicts him having sexual intercourse with a 14-year-old girl.

Irons, 47, plays Professor Humbert Humbert in an intensely controversial remake of Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*. Directed by the British connoisseur of screen sex, Adrian Lyne, the film has no American backer six months after filming was completed. As one studio executive put it this week: "No one in Hollywood will touch it."

The new *Lolita* was made for \$50 million (£30 million) by the French company Charg-

eurs, which expects only slight resistance from continental censors to the film's graphic sex and nudity despite the fact that the lead is played by a 14-year-old Malibu schoolgirl.

The North American market is proving harder to crack. With presidential politics shining a spotlight on Hollywood morals, "this movie was doomed from the start", Mr Lyne said this week, just after Bob Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, urged studios to make more wholesome action films. In an acid reference to Mr Dole's apparent tolerance for films with a high body count, Mr Lyne said: "If I were doing a movie about a 13-year-old getting

chopped up by a cannibal, there'd be no problem."

No stranger to sexual scandal, Mr Lyne also directed *9½ Weeks*, *Fatal Attraction* and *Indecent Proposal*, all boasting explicit sex scenes but all involving only consenting adults. Mr Irons is likewise a veteran of screen sex, with such stars as Meryl Streep in *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and Juliette Binoche in *Damage*.

Both men are breaking new ground with *Lolita*, however. The choice of Dominique Swain, an unknown in her first year of high school, for the female lead, is certain to raise the hackles of politicians, moralists and censors alike.

Chances are, though, that

Los Angeles: A jury has recommended the death penalty for Richard Allen Davis, whose murder of a 12-year-old girl three years ago triggered the "three strikes" legislation aimed at cracking down on serial criminals (Giles Whittell writes).

The disappearance of Polly Klaas from her home in California prompted a two-month nationwide hunt. When Davis confessed to the murder and it emerged that he had other assaults on women on his record, gripped turned to public outrage.

Pete Wilson, the state Governor, and Dianne Feinstein, the Democratic senator, spoke at the funeral and demanded tough new laws.

## Death penalty for child killer

## Disaster of Flight 800 'began in cargo hold'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A TRAIL of luggage and clothing which fell from TWA Flight 800 has been found in the Atlantic up to six miles from the main crash site, it was disclosed yesterday.

If, as suspected, the crash was caused by a bomb, it may have been hidden in the hold rather than elsewhere on the jetliner. Earlier theories have included bombs being placed in the cockpit, in the first-class section's galley, or in one of the forward lavatories.

The latest TWA debris was found by a US Navy search vessel equipped with a submersible camera. Shirts, trousers and a baseball cap were seen in the water, and closer examination of the seabed in the area betrayed pathetic suitcases, some still with their luggage labels and holiday stickers.

Linguists say what keeps Spanish alive is the flow of Latin American immigrants to the area. A cutback in immigration would kill Spanish fluency in Miami within a generation.

Calls for a bilingual public school system have met local resistance. "Bilingualism is a bad word in the current anti-immigration climate," Ms Fradd said.

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## Beef farmers flee Chirac heartland for the city

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PLATEAU DE MILLEVACHES

THE thousands of cows that gave this verdant hilltop its name may soon be reduced to a mere handful, according to residents of the Plateau de Millevaches who fear that the effects of the "mad cow" disease crisis could be the final blow to a farming population that has steadily dwindled over the past five decades.

Even before the BSE crisis sent beef prices plummeting, French farms were dying off at the rate of almost 5 per cent a year. As late as the Second World War, agricultural workers made up 40 per cent of the French population, but today fewer than 2 per cent earn their living from the land. Between 1993 and last year more than 66,000 family farms vanished, according to figures from the Ministry of Agriculture.

René Courteix, Mayor of the tiny town of St Merd-lès-Oussines perched on this plateau in the heart of the Corrèze region of central France, has seen the value of his herd of Limousin cattle dwindle since March. "It is catastrophic. Already some of the younger farmers are

going under and heading to the cities," he observed.

Driving through this rolling countryside, the effects of rural depopulation are visible in the many boarded-up stone houses, some already in ruins. "Last century St Merd had a population of more than 500 people, now we are reduced to just over a hundred," M Courteix said. For the French Government, the gradual "desertification" of the land, now compounded by the effects of mad cow disease, represents a psychological as well as a political crisis, not least for President Chirac who has made much of his rural roots in the Corrèze. M Chirac was raised in Brive-la-Gaillarde, and the Corrèze is

often referred to as his personal fiefdom. He is, the locals proclaim proudly, the only President of the Fifth Republic able to milk a cow. Now, M Courteix insists, M Chirac must milk Brussels for increased compensation to help beleaguered French cattle farmers.

On the road leading to St Merd, cardboard placards nailed to gateposts state: "We need a fixed price for our cows this autumn" — they are remnants of the protests over mad cow disease earlier this year. Many French farmers blame Britain for the disaster but M Courteix insists: "This crisis has been building for a long time".

In February the French Government began offering incentives to the rural population, including relief on social security charges and reduced property taxes, in an effort to anchor the declining rural population to the land. French farms have grown in size just as they have shrunk in number. On the Plateau de Millevaches, farmers have taken to planting conifers and begun diversifying into sheep, but in many cases the land is

simply being allowed to lie unused. Cattle breeders are not the only sufferers. Many grain farmers blame European Union rules, which require land to lie fallow to prevent over-production, for reducing profits and accelerating the flow of young people to cities. The statistics show that France is no longer a land of country people, but that contrast remains central to the national self-image. This month millions of city-dwellers will head to the countryside for a month of bucolic relaxation for, as one historian has observed, "a Frenchman's second home is his castle".

"In the past local men travelled north to carry out seasonal labour as stonemasons and the like. Now they go, but they do not come back," M Courteix said. "Instead we have seasonal people who come from Paris for a few weeks and then leave again."

Robert Mazaud, 80, said: "This cow disease may be the end. Not a single cow here has caught this plague, but we are suffering. It does not make sense," he says, draining his glass. M Mazaud's buffaloes are

repeated across the Plateau de Millevaches as the remaining farmers watch their once rich land left to grow weeds, their cattle suddenly rendered cheap and the cows themselves, shining with good health, threatened by the effects of an unknown disease from a foreign land.

Jacques Chirac likes to make much of his rural links to the Corrèze, but locals are fearful of mad cow disease and the end of a way of life



## Chechen raiders seize Grozny strongpoints

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

CHECHEN rebels launched a daring counter-offensive against Russian forces in the breakaway republic yesterday, capturing parts of the capital, Grozny, and laying siege to two smaller towns.

In the fiercest fighting witnessed in Chechnya since a similar guerrilla operation five months ago, hundreds of separatist fighters poured into Grozny in a dawn raid that underscored Russia's tenuous hold on the shattered city.

At least 20 Russian troops were killed and nearly 100 wounded. Russian armoured personnel carriers were left burning in the streets and up to four helicopters were shot down.

The rebels, who may have received assistance from supposedly pro-Russian militiamen, seized key buildings in the devastated city centre and kept the Russians pinned down with sniper fire for most

of the day. Government troops eventually called up helicopter gunships in an attempt to flush them out.

Similar fighting was reported in the towns of Argun and Gudermes.

The operation was led by Shamil Basayev, the veteran Chechen commander, who masterminded last year's hostage-taking operation in Budennovsk and the surprise attack on Grozny in March, when the rebels seized and held large parts of the city for several days.

"The actions in Grozny have a single aim — showing that the war in Chechnya is not over yet," said Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen chief of staff and the leading moderate in the rebel hierarchy. His remarks were interpreted in Moscow as a signal to President Yeltsin that, unless he calls off the current Russian offensive against

rebel strongholds in the mountains, he can expect further attacks.

Mr Yeltsin was returning to work from three weeks' rest at a sanatorium after his re-election on July 3. Many fear that the rebels may try to mount a spectacular operation on Friday, when the Russian leader is due to be sworn in for another term.

In Moscow, the sense of foreboding deepened when a small bomb was detonated next to Rublyovskoye Shosse, the main route taken by the Kremlin leadership to work. The device, which caused no casualties, blew up minutes before Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, drove past in a heavily protected cavalcade.

The Russian authorities reacted angrily to the latest violence and Sergei Stepanish, the head of the government commission on Chechnya,

ruled out any further talks with the rebels unless they denounced the raids.

■ Miners' threat: Russian miners told the Government they will hold an all-out national strike unless it pays trillions of roubles in wage arrears by August 25.

As tens of thousands of miners in the Far East and southern Russia began returning to work yesterday after several days of stoppages, they issued a fresh ultimatum. Vitali Budko, the chairman of the independent miners' union, said after a meeting in Moscow that his members were still owed more than £200 million in back pay.

"The problem of non-payments is an issue for the Government to tackle. Why should miners suffer?" he asked. "If the Government does not fulfil our demands, we will start the strike on August 25."



Titanic holidaymakers will visit her grave

### Cruise to Titanic plumbs the depths

BY TOM RHODES  
IN WASHINGTON

LATER this month some 2,200

passengers will cruise to the site of the *Titanic*, accompanied by Burt Reynolds, the former astronaut Buzz Aldrin, and a manifesto of those who died when she struck an iceberg on her maiden voyage on April 15, 1912.

The cruise — costing between £1,200 and £4,000 a head — is the latest brainchild of George Tulloch, who two years ago won temporary salvage rights to the world's most famous shipwreck. His company, RMS *Titanic* Inc, has plumped ever greater depths of tackiness in its exploitation of the disaster.

This time, Mr Tulloch has promised that a section of the hull will be recovered from the *Titanic* within full view of the captive audience on board the two cruise liners. In fact, all that will be raised is a 33ft section of hull plating. He also intends to floodlight part of the ship for underwater cameras.

British survivors and relatives of those who went down have been horrified at the prospect of the underwater son et lumiere.

GERMANS, subtly revising their idealistic views on Europe, are outraged that they cannot have their cake and eat it. On a broad spectrum of issues, from subsidies to new Brussels rulings for bakeries, Bonn is at odds with the European Commission.

The latest dispute hits at a German institution: the Sunday ritual of coffee and cake with friends and relatives; a weekend event that seems to have spread to every day of the week. Like all European bakers, German cake-makers have access to subsidised European butter, providing they keep within strict guidelines about the proportion of flour used in the pastry.

Now the German Finance Ministry has informed pastry makers about Brussels directive 670/88 concerned with reducing the butter mountain. The finished cake must, according to Brussels, be at least 51 per cent flour to qualify for cheaper butter.

"If this ruling stays in force, cakes, from sweet croissants to fruit tarts, will have to be 15 per cent more expensive," said Eberhard Gröbel, chairman of the Bakers' Association, which represents 23,000 cake-makers.

"We demand that the Finance Minister reverse this new, nonsensical European decree from Brussels."

Similar protests can be heard across the political and economic landscape in Germany, much to the irritation of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, who is trying to steer the country towards acceptance of tighter political union and a single European currency.

On monetary union, two-thirds of Germans are pitted against Herr Kohl, but until recently it has been assumed that there was basic support for the Chancellor's political aims. That assumption no longer holds water.



A mask of Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, on a shop dummy in Bonn

## Russia ready to crown Tsar Boris

BY RICHARD BEESTON

AS FINAL preparations were under way yesterday for Boris Yeltsin's lavish swearing-in this week, Russians were left wondering whether they had elected a tsar or a President.

From the ceremonial guards in 19th-century uniform to the strong religious trappings of the event, what was billed as the first inauguration of an elected Russian head of state was starting to look like the latest in a long line of Kremlin coronations.

The event will be on Friday morning when the ailing Russian leader is due to appear in public for the first time in more than a month, taking his oath of office in front of 3,000 Russian and foreign dignitaries.

Nothing is being left to chance for the occasion and organisers are even planning to use aircraft to seed approaching rain clouds in an attempt to ensure a sunny day. What has aroused public

suspicion and media derision is the location of the event on the Kremlin's Cathedral Square only yards from the Cathedral of the Assumption, where tsars were once crowned.

To add to the regal over-

tones, about 400 singers and musicians will perform the *Glory* finale of Glink's patriotic opera *Ivan Susanin*, or *Life for the Tsar*, while 100 guards of the newly formed Kremlin Regiment will attend

the opening of the 1980 Moscow Olympics and the coronation of Nicholas II in 1896.

■ Somewhere between the opening of the 1980 Moscow Olympics and the coronation of Nicholas II in 1896.

In Napoleonic-era uniforms, "I imagine the spectacle will provide a fruity hybrid, somewhere between the opening ceremony of the 1980 Moscow Olympics and the coronation of Nicholas II in 1896," Leonid Parfyonov, a television per-

sonality, said. "For foreigners, the scene will probably look like a Bolshoi Theatre production of *Boris Godunov*. For Russians, it will be exactly what they wanted."

Although organisers have stopped short of a full crowning ceremony, Aleksei II, the Orthodox Patriarch, will present President Yeltsin with a jewel-encrusted gold cross and chain and a silver star, a replacement for the sceptre and orb once presented to Russian monarchs on their accession to the throne.

"This will make the inauguration ceremony especially solemn and will become yet more proof of our country's greatness," Nina Sivova, head of the presidential state awards department, said.

The president emphasised that Europe's "critical dialogue" with Iran was preferable to the American position because it was dangerous to isolate a country of regional importance. "We

think it is more correct to remain in talks with Iran ... to work against the things that Iran is accused of," he told German radio.

Herr Kinkel seemed sceptical that there would be a full-blown trade war. The same line was taken by other European governments and companies. French oil industry executives said the sanctions would not apply to them or to their suppliers.

"Our reading of the text of the American Bill shows that the sanctions will only apply to new business," said Total, the French oil group, which

has the biggest contract with Iran of any company in the world.

Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, suggested the D'Amato Bill — named after Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato — was prompted by electoral considerations. "This decision is more than anything else symbolic," he said. "We Europeans know this perfectly well but we can't just sit back and say nothing."

Brian has been less direct in its criticism of the United States.

The Bill requires President Clinton to impose sanctions against any

company that invests \$40 million (£26 million) or more a year in oil and gas projects in Iran and Libya.

Both Iran and Libya are hoping to play off Europe against the United States. Both yesterday scurriedly dismissed the Bill as "doomed to failure", saying it would only isolate Washington. But oil analysts and diplomats said the two countries would have difficulty attracting vital foreign investment if the sanctions were rigorously enforced.

Iran expects to have a speedy and constructive dialogue with Europe

to promote healthy political and economic ties with all European Union members, said *Iran News*, a newspaper close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Lybia's state-run news agency said the measure "crows the American policy of following its own selfish interest which has damaged and will further damage the American people's interests and those of its allies."

Now, however, Germany will no doubt come under pressure to show its conciliatory policies towards Iran are paying humanitarian dividends.

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## Bonn heads allied resistance to US 'terrorism' sanctions

BY ROGER BOYES AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

GERMANY yesterday put itself at the vanguard of European states resisting American pressure to impose sanctions against alleged sponsors of international terrorism such as Iran and Libya.

Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, emphasised that Europe's "critical dialogue" with Iran was preferable to the American position because it was dangerous to isolate a country of regional importance. "We

think it is more correct to remain in talks with Iran ... to work against the things that Iran is accused of," he told German radio.

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**Letters, page 15**

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**Letters, page 15**

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# Netanyahu talks offer rejected by Damascus

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

SYRIA rejected with contempt yesterday an offer by Benjamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister, to resume peace talks with Damascus, saying that his proposals lacked substance.

The rejection was issued through the official daily *Tishreen*, a mouthpiece of the Syrian Government.

In an editorial, the newspaper said that Mr Netanyahu wanted first to talk about Israel's security problem in south Lebanon and not about the future of the strategic Golan Heights, captured from Syria during the 1967 war.

"This talk does not mean anything for the making of peace," *Tishreen* said. "It is mere nice words which are baseless. The issue is not the resumption of the negotiations but the essence of what the negotiations would deal with. What kind of negotiations [does] Netanyahu want to resume while he still rejects withdrawal from the Golan and couples this rejection with the expansion of settlements and bringing more Jews to settle in the occupied Syrian lands?" The question was a reference to the Israeli Cabinet's decision on Friday to approve an expansion of Jewish settlements in territories seized in 1967, including the Golan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

*Tishreen* said that Damascus was still committed to the peace process, but it urged Mr Netanyahu to withdraw Israeli troops from occupied Arab land. "Israel's position regarding the peace process in the light of what Netanyahu and other Israeli officials are saying proved that they are not serious and that they are evading the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace," it said.

There was no comment on the matter last night from Mr Netanyahu's office.

An official said that the proposal sent to Syria spelt out Israel's terms for withdrawing its troops from south Lebanon. He said that would be a first step towards peace with Syria which, with 35,000 troops stationed in the country, is the main foreign power broker in Lebanon. After the

Syrian response, the State Department in Washington said that the United States was trying to arrange new peace negotiations between Israel and Syria, but so far had failed to do so. The State Department spoke after President Hrawi of Lebanon held surprise talks in Damascus on Monday with President Assad of Syria. The two leaders agreed to discuss a common strategy in relations with the Jewish state.

President Assad will visit Egypt today for talks with President Mubarak on the future of the Middle East peace process. Muhammad Mousa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said yesterday that the talks would focus on the Israeli Government's decision to lift a freeze on the expansion of Jewish settlements. Mr Mousa said the Egyptian-Syrian talks were of special importance to the Middle East peace process in the light of America's latest efforts to bring about a resumption of negotiations between Israel and Syria. Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel, is hoping to play a greater mediating role between the Jewish state and other Arab leaders.

In the meantime, Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority's President, also attacked Israel yesterday over its decision to allow the expansion of Jewish settlements and for its failure to withdraw troops from parts of the West Bank city of Hebron. "We must prepare a comprehensive plan to confront this conspiracy," Mr Arafat said.

"It is a conspiracy against me, against the peace process. This means tearing up the agreements between us and them." Israel has withdrawn troops from the centre of all the main Arab cities on the West Bank except Hebron, where about 400 Jews are settled among 100,000 Palestinians.

The previous Labour Government in Israel promised to withdraw troops from the centre of Hebron, but never implemented the decision after a series of suicide bombings that killed 59 people in February and March.

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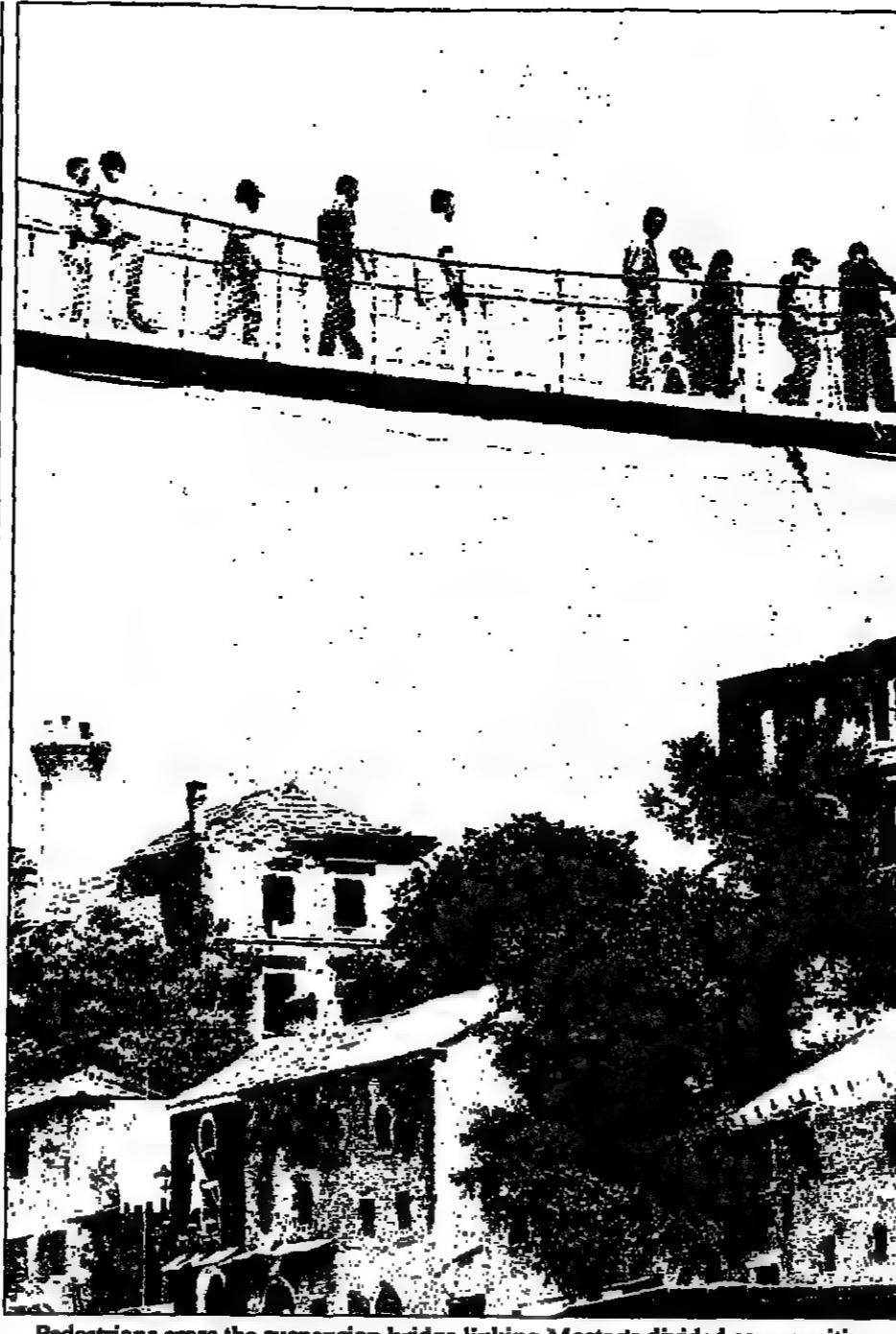
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Pedestrians cross the suspension bridge linking Mostar's divided communities

# Mostar Muslims and Croats pull back from brink

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

MUSLIM and Croat officials, who were caught in a week-long political stalemate that threatened to undermine a key provision of the Dayton peace accord, reached a compromise on the joint governance of Mostar yesterday, narrowly averting a European Union threat to withdraw from the divided city.

The hardline Croats, who have made no secret of their desire to create a separate mini-state, pointed to voting irregularities at refugee polling station in Bonn, Germany, where ballots counted exceeded voters by 26. The EU's ombudsman declared the number too small to alter the election outcome, but agreed to give the Federal Supreme Court the final say.

Officials involved in the talks characterised the atmosphere as tense and the talks as virulent. "It has been quite difficult and we have had quite a few sleepless nights," said Sir Martin Garrod, the British diplomat who is the EU's special envoy in the city.

Throughout the head of the Mostar branch of the ruling hardline Croat HDZ party, Mile Pujic, often referred to his Muslim neighbours as "Chechens" and "Hezbollah". The even-tempered Sir Martin referred to the thugs that roam Mostar's Croat west side as "scum".

The EU, which has spent £70 million and two years trying to unify the city, threatened to pull out because separatist Bosnian Croats declared

the elections fraudulent and boycotted the city council. Both EU deadlines slipped past unmet, but officials, mindful of the devastating precedent a pullout would have set, granted the parties more time to compromise.

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Western diplomats in Bosnia said the real issue was that the Muslims had won a majority on the city council.

If the EU had quit and the election results were not recognised, a dangerous precedent would have been set for Bosnia's general elections on September 14. All parties would have felt they could overturn results with impunity.

Croatia blamed: Croatia was blamed yesterday for failing to make the Krajina region safe for Serb refugees to return (Eve-Ann PRENTICE writes). Michael Collins, directed by Neil Jordan, stars Liam Neeson, Alan Rickman and Julia Roberts. To be released in America on October 11, it has, as yet, no British date.

Misha Glenny, page 14

## WORLD SUMMARY

### De Niro's restaurant attacked

New York: Two armed men escaped with about \$2,000 (£1,300) after attacking Nobu, the Japanese-style New York restaurant owned by the actor Robert De Niro, and shooting three members of the staff (Quentin Letts writes).

The attack came in the small hours yesterday when the gunmen forced their way into the restaurant in Manhattan's TriBeCa, a gentrified former warehouse area. Entering through a back door, they handcuffed a waitress, pistol-whipped a dishwasher and held a gun to the head of a sushi chef before opening fire with handguns. "Bullets were flying all over the place," a witness said.

### Preview offer over IRA film

Los Angeles: The director of a film about an IRA co-founder has offered a preview to politicians in Britain and Ireland to try to persuade them it will not worsen tensions after the Northern Ireland ceasefire's collapse (Giles WHITTELL writes). Michael Collins, directed by Neil Jordan, stars Liam Neeson, Alan Rickman and Julia Roberts. To be released in America on October 11, it has, as yet, no British date.

### Children saved from leaky boat

Vladivostok: Two young children spent the night in a leaky rubber boat on the Sea of Japan, mopping up water with a T-shirt and wringing it out overboard, until searchers found them. Yulia Sheskova, seven, and Misha Terekhin, five, had been playing in the boat near the shore when it drifted out to sea, unnoticed by Misha's grandfather, who was drunk. AP)

### Jail for slap

Delhi: K. P. S. Gill, a former police chief involved in suppressing Sikh separatists in the Punjab was sentenced to five months' imprisonment for slapping a woman civil servant on the buttocks. (Reuters)

## Gang declares war on Cape Town vigilantes

FROM INIGO GILMORE  
IN JOHANNESBURG

THE mob murder of a drugs gangster on a Cape Town street has shocked South Africans and highlighted the country's alarming slide towards vigilante justice.

President Mandela condemned the murder by Muslim militants on Sunday night of Rashad Staggie, and Sydney Mufamadi, the Safety and Security Minister, has demanded an explanation from police who watched but did not intervene in the murder.

Photographs showed members of a Muslim vigilante group, People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (PAGAD), surrounding Staggie's vehicle, pulling him out and setting him alight.

Dullah Omar, the Justice Minister, has been urged to hold talks with the Muslim group to defuse the tension.

Schools in Cape Town's Muslim areas stayed shut yesterday and children missed afternoon religious studies. "Many Muslim parents fear reprisals by the drug barons," said Ibrahim Moosa, director of the Centre for Contemporary Islam.

Rashid Staggie, twin brother of the murdered gang boss and co-leader of the gang, vowed yesterday that vengeance will be wreaked on Pagad. "It looks like war, but we didn't proclaim it. Pagad did," he said.

Pagad, an alliance of various community organisations and neighbourhood watchmen, is relatively new, but reflects what is happening elsewhere in South Africa. Increasingly, black South Africans, frustrated by the failure of police to arrest and put criminals behind bars, have been

taking matters into their own hands. Operating on a voluntary basis, or for money, some groups are loosely connected and come together only in crises while others are highly organised.

In central Johannesburg, a group calling itself the Angry 13 has vowed to clean up the streets. In Durban, the Cleaners track down known criminals and main them.

In Soweto, Youth Action Against Crime operates from above an office. The burly youths, who include former ANC guerrillas, straighten out criminals at "workshops" where they beat their captives.

One of the leaders said: "The police are discredited, so what else can we do?"

## Kenya cuts links to Burundi

FROM SAM KILLEY  
IN NAIROBI

KENYA yesterday tightened the sanctions noose on Burundi's military Government by closing all communications with the central African country and refusing landing rights to aid flights.

Bujumbura, Burundi's capital, has been hit hard by sanctions imposed by the Organisation of African Unity a week ago. Fuel prices have soared and the price of salt has doubled.

Kenyan officials said yesterday that they were working out ways of restricting the movement of people in and out of the troubled country, where at least 150,000 people have died in ethnic violence since 1993.

Sanctions have been easy to impose on Burundi, all of whose imports and exports have to travel through Kenya or Tanzania. The latter had already closed its borders and cut off air links.

Nairobi's move came as Amnesty International accused the Tutsi army in Burundi of killing 200 people since the July 26 coup.

## Megawati to obey summons

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
IN JAKARTA

INDONESIA'S ousted opposition leader was closest with political allies at her home south of Jakarta yesterday, contemplating what looks increasingly like a bleak future. She received another summons to an interrogation at police headquarters as the Government's drive to sideline her intensified.

Later an aide said Megawati Sukarnoputri would obey the summons to appear on Friday in connection with the recent anti-government rioting here.

Miss Megawati, who has not appeared publicly for nearly two weeks, seems to have been overwhelmed by the uncompromising government retaliation to her challenge, one of the most serious in President Suharto's 30 years of rule.

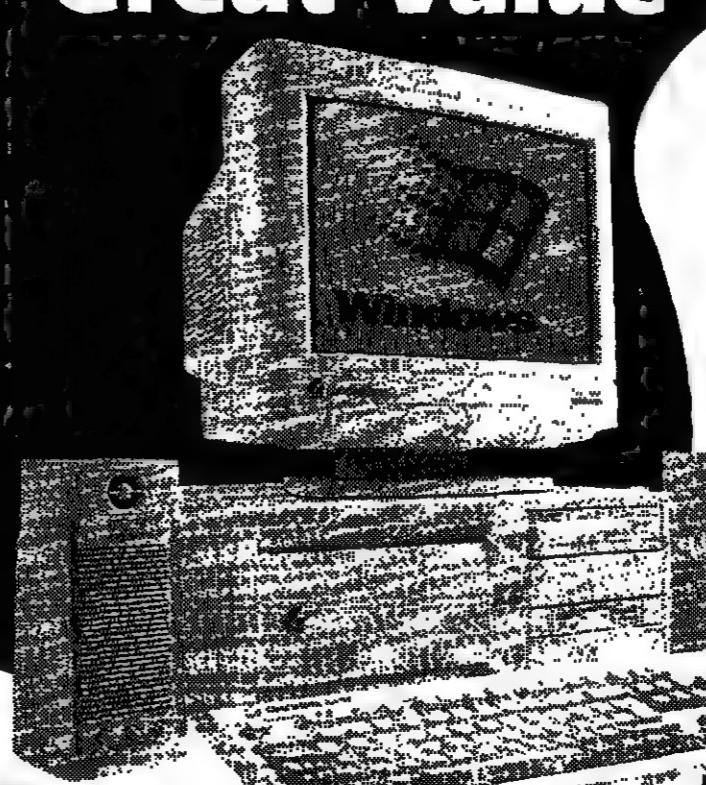
Since the Jakarta riots she has stayed at home, and the capital is back to normal. Her allies say her approach is part of a long-term strategy: it is more probably a sign of submission to the enormous pressures being applied to her.

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# Zip into the locker-room look

The Summer of Sport isn't over yet. With perfect timing the American designer and astute businessman Ralph Lauren is promoting his latest range of beauty products, Polo Sport Woman. Advertisements for his body products and fragrance speak of "fitness as the ultimate beauty tool", and champion a "healthy-looking glow".

Fashion has a habit of seizing the moment and right now you can't move for someone trying to hop, step or jump into the record books. Inevitably then, along with the clever marketing of Lauren and his

"skin fitness line" there is a renewed interest in sporty-looking clean-cut clothes which are clear winners in the style stakes.

However, whereas previously the aim of putting on a pair of Lycra leggings or slipping on a towelling sweatband (think Jamie Lee Curtis in *Perfect*) was to give the impression that you were either just coming from or jogging to the gym, the latest raid on the locker room appears a lot less obvious. The mood is relaxed without being overtly athletic, more slow-down than go-faster. Just do it, but take your time about it.

This time it's all in the styling. No one should wear sports clothing top to toe unless they are competing in a different arena. Instead choose pieces to suit — best of all are hooded jackets in fleecy sweatshirting or silvery nylon, sometimes quilted, always zipped. Hooded sweat-tops and clingy Lycra T-shirts provide easy options in classic navy, black, red, yellow and white. Straight-to-the-point logos like Gap's SPORT line or Nike's state-of-the-art tick design are favourite. Underneath try a sports bra for added comfort and a smooth line — Champion has a Joggbra, Berlei offers the ShockAbsorber, while Triumph fitted the British Olympic team with its sports bras.

The biggest difference is what to wear with these sporty separates. Wear a cotton-mesh numbered baseball vest by DKNY, but team it with a long stretch velvet or washed silk skirt instead of a pair of sports shorts to emphasise the new season's prevailing trend for long and

**Fashion journalist of the year**  
IAN R. WEBB

Cool girls are teaming the sportiest of separates with a distinctively laid-back style

lean. Or pull on a pair of wide-legged pants in stretch towelling. Then there are the shoes. Instead of colourful Adidas Galaxy or Nike Air Total Max trainers the fashionable set are loafing around in another American import: driving

shoes. The slip-on moccasin with its trademark rubber-studded sole and heel guard comes in everything from leather to shiny moccoc or matt suede. They also vary considerably in price. J.P. Todd's and Cole-Haan are top of the range, the Williams and Benetton of driving shoes.

To take the look from top to toe a scraped-back hairdo or what the Americans are calling the "up-do", is a must. It's an easy style to perfect because its success depends on it looking do-it-yourself. International hairstylist Orlando Pita recently told *American Vogue*: "It looks best if you carelessly pin it up yourself." Reminiscent of the girl gymnasts from Russia and Romania, the hair is pulled back from the face and either pinned, knotted or braided at the back of the head. You can use minimal products to achieve the look — Kiehl's Hair Conditioning and Grooming Aid or Charles Worthington's Seriously Shiny Silkening Serum plus a dab of John Frieda Hair Wax and

barrette used at the Chanel show. Instead of a tan, go for a healthy glow. A natural-looking blush can be achieved with a tube of Origins Pinch Your Cheeks.

The latest laid-back look, which several of the front row have already been sporting, is straightforward white denim jeans. Work the look into autumn by buying them extra long so that they will practically cover a high-heeled shoe, then tuck in a slinky jersey shirt unbuttoned to the waist just like Lauren Hutton and Karen Black in the Seventies, and think Gloria Vanderbilt. Glorious.



ABOVE: Yellow nylon zip front quilted jacket, £73, Sisley (0171-929 9259). Cream towelling stretch trousers, £29; towelling beanie hat, £9 from a selection, Mulji, 28 Great Marlborough Street, W1; 39-41 Shelton Street, WC2, 157 Kensington High Street, W8.

LEFT: Navy stretch cotton hooded top, £28, Gap, branches nationwide (0171-518 8300). Navy bias cut skirt, £100, Fenn Wright & Merson, Fenwicks, New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 4967). Black velvet skirt, £150, Fenn Wright & Merson, as before.

FAR LEFT: White nylon zip front hooded jacket, £155; navy stretch sleeveless R.L. logo top, Polo Sport by Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 4967). White leather loafers, £179, J.P. Todd's, Harrods, SW1.

FAR LEFT, BELOW: Black zip front hooded top, £41, Sisley, as before. White stretch sleeveless R.L. logo top, £75, Polo Sport by Ralph Lauren, as before.



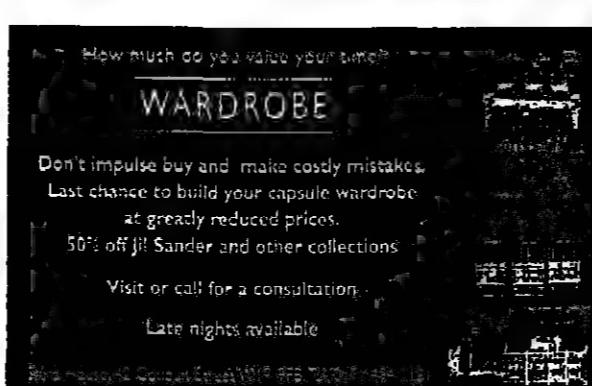
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The Romantics invested Nature with a power that reflected man's spiritual need for something greater than himself

BRYAN AND CHERRY ALEXANDER

# Why we must keep Antarctica a true wilderness

SCIENTISTS from all over the world are meeting in Cambridge this week as Britain hosts an international conference on Antarctica. The future of one of the world's last great wildernesses is being debated.

The vast and wondrous continent of Antarctica with its shadowed mountains and stretching plains of ice constitutes one tenth of the land mass of the planet. The continent drifted into polar isolation long before warm-blooded creatures first emerged, and there are no mammals living on its frozen wastes. Its largest true land animal is probably a millimetre-long spider-like mite. There are no trees there, just virulent weeds of algae floating in temporary summer streams and lichens clinging to wind-blown rock. The desolate landscapes of dry valleys are broken only by the weird shapes of ventifacts, stones sculpted by millions of years of winds.

Time flows without punctuation. Days slide into lucid nights, mornings arrive without a sunrise. Polar cold dissolves the distinction between land and sea. Colour, scale and perspective dissolve in the vast ice cap which becomes in its very desolation a metaphor for wildness itself.

During the rationalising era of the 18th century, wildernesses were seen as threatening and fearful



Rachel Campbell-Johnston

places, raw weaks on the land unhealed by the order and symmetry of civilisation. In *A Journey to the Western Islands*, Samuel Johnson described his travels into "the bosom of the highlands" north of Fort Augustus. "An eye accustomed to flowery pastures and waving harvests is astonished and repelled by this wide extent of desolation," he wrote. To the rationalist view, the chaos of nature represented a dangerous and corrupting force.

But by the end of the century a new Romantic vision had seeped into the English consciousness. Unshackling the spontaneity of the overflowing heart, the Romantics invested the wilderness with a power that responded to and reflected man's deepest spiritual and emotional needs for something greater than himself.

It was to the awesome vastness of the icy wastes that many of the Romantics turned for inspiration. Coleridge explored the bleakness of a "land of mist and snow" in *The Ancient Mariner*. Shelley salutes the constant, yet coldly indifferent power of Mount Blanc. It is this vision that has shaped our 20th-century imagination.

Throughout the 20th century we have thrilled to tales of Antarctic expeditions of British explorers such as Scott and Shackleton. Perhaps it is the fact that Scott



Development has already reached Antarctica's icy wastes and once an environment has been destroyed and interfered with, it is often impossible to restore

failed to return that created the indestructible splendour of myth.

Fifteen years ago I was working in the Falkland Islands and along with the other shepherds I would return home from the pastures along the South Atlantic coast. "The reason I love living here most," one of the men once told me, "is that I can look out over the ocean and know that there is nothing between me and Antarctica." But later that year he was offered a job on an icebreaker, travelling to the bases of the British Antarctic Survey. He didn't take it. "I think it is best in the imagination," he said.

In an increasingly industrialised world, the desolate savagery of the wilderness became a symbol of the chaos that man yearned for to frame his order and give it context and meaning. *What would the world be once bereft / Of wet and of wilderness... / Oh let them be left,*

cried the Jesuit poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins. The fervour of his plea echoes modern society's call for a place in which it can directly confront the greatness of some transcendent power.

The wilderness traditionally has been portrayed as a place of soul-searching. In the Old Testament the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years. Christ fasted in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights.

In the primal landscape of Antarctica, humanity is confronted with the absolutes that philosophy has always striven to encompass. "One feels a disconnection to perform even the small necessities of life," wrote Shackleton. "One only feels in a fit state to lie in one's bag and idly ponder." The sheer barren desolation presents a radical negation by which, paradoxically, human reality is somehow revealed.

The world's wild places are no longer, as Johnson described,

them, "incapable of usefulness". Yet we have become too careless of them. From Patagonia to northern Alaska, from tropical Australia to Lake Baikal, the world bears the harsh imprint of human exploitation of natural resources. The base camp of Everest is strewn with rubbish. Even in our own country, caged hordes trample and destroy those moody tracts of land north of upper Teesdale, which are one of the last designated wildernesses in Europe. And, as bitter experience has taught us, once an environment has been destroyed and interfered with, it is difficult, often impossible to restore it.

Already development has reached Antarctica. Around the research bases landforms are altered by bulldozing and blasting, water courses are diverted and movement of people obliterates the vegetation. Toxic wastes form pools amid the derelict machinery of abandoned habitations.

Antarctica is unique in that it is the only continent on our planet that has never harboured and nourished a civilisation. Unlike the rainforests, we have no precedent to tell us how to live in harmony with its ecosystem. Yet as a continent whose coldness acts in counterpoint to the equatorial tropics, it is a critical part of an integrated global climate. Man cannot afford to meddle with it further.

**C**ommercially orientated mineral activities would require the construction of workshops, accommodation and storage buildings, wharves for ships and hardrock runways for aircraft. They would have a deep impact which would deny us ever the opportunity for research on an undisturbed ecosystem.

The despoliation of Antarctica would signal the bankruptcy of our technological society in finding creative solutions to global problems. But perhaps even more importantly it would be the shattering of one of our last emotional and imaginative icons.

There has long been a campaign calling for the designation of Antarctica as a world park. We must take responsibility for this continent at a time when it has become most vulnerable to change from without. The Antarctic Treaty, first signed in 1959, declared the continent a demilitarised zone which should be preserved for scientific research. It has been highly successful and should continue to be extended indefinitely. Commercial mining for minerals and oil should be banned. Antarctica has the richest summer seas in the world. Fisheries should be closely monitored. Careful controls should also be made on the growth of tourism to the continent. In our modern age, the protection of Antarctica is perhaps the best answer we can make to the call of the wild.

On the day the mails stopped, the perils of do-it-yourself deliveries

THIS is a story of fear, loathing and privatisation. It goes to show that whatever God intended, he never envisaged a multi-option postal delivery service. At least not in Edinburgh.

It began with yesterday's postal strike in the city and the Government's announcement that it was ending the Royal Mail's monopoly. This, I

## Playing the last post in Edinburgh

thought, was an opportunity not to be missed. As a one-person business myself I am deeply imbued with the enter-

prise culture and alert to its opportunities. I therefore determined to mount my own first-class delivery service.

A small clutch of vital letters — an unpaid parking fine just within its limit, a thank-you letter six weeks late and written in a flush of guilt, an article whose deadline was beginning to show signs of stress — demanded immediate action. I jumped into the car and headed off towards postal areas whose codes indicated proximity. That was an error. To assume that EH8 is right next to EH9 is entirely to misunderstand the system.

My second mistake was to forget that Edinburgh has declared war on the motorist. On Monday a new traffic plan was introduced, designed to drive cars off the road. It is called Moving Forward. Seeing Red might be more appropriate.

The idea is to encourage traffic, for no very obvious reason, to go westwards down Princes Street, Edinburgh's main thoroughfare, but not eastwards.

IT BLOCKS off the streets you want to turn into, and diverts you into places you never knew existed. It is designed with cyclists in mind in a city which, with its vertiginous hills, almost certainly qualifies as the non-cycling centre of Europe. It makes its intentions clear in a leader which mentions buses, taxis, bicycles and pedestrians, but, ominously, cannot bring itself to refer to cars. It calls them "other vehicles".

For the one-man postal delivery service, this was bad news. Preparing to turn left into Princes Street I noticed that the road surface in South St Andrew Street had turned green. I felt uneasy about this, but persevered, only to find a traffic warden barring my way. He pointed out that only buses, taxis and cycles were now permitted. A testy dialogue ensued, in which I experienced the first symp-

toms of road rage, and he explained how I was meant to cross the North Bridge by going in the opposite direction.

I reversed, joined an unwelcoming traffic stream which took me inexorably towards the one place I knew I must avoid — the Royal Mile, a sort of vehicular purgatory where cars await until their sins are redeemed, and the traffic lights show only red or amber.

SOME hours later I found myself gingerly crossing the North Bridge, but this time heading north. By now chastened, I hesitated about turning back into Princes Street, flinching instinctively as a policeman gestured at me. But no, he was smiling, waving me on down a virtually traffic-free road. I was going west, and I had therefore passed some sort of Bunyan-like test. I was no longer Lord Hatogod, I was Mr Valiant-for-Truth, heading for the Celestial City.

Unfortunately, I was travelling in completely the wrong direction. My home, my wife, family and loved ones were all away to my right, in the land that lies beyond George Street. Once I could have driven there. But that was yesterday. Today, bumbling traffic wardens were waving me on towards the Lothian Road and Shandwick Place, and who knows what beyond. Glasgow perhaps. I watched as once familiar streets flashed past, now grimly barred, their barriers open only to mythical cyclists.

Suddenly, when all seemed lost, a street opened up to the right. Guiltily I turned into it, and found myself, miraculously, heading back where I wanted to go. Here was the appropriately named Hope Street. Now, just one more turn and — but no, despairingly, the top of Dublin Street was barred. I must travel on.

Ahead, a sign indicated Berwick-on-Tweed. I pulled up and began to sob silently, tears dripping onto my little pile of letters. Looking up, I spotted a familiar red object. I stumbled out, and thrust the letters into the pillar-box. Then I headed for the A1 and freedom.

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### ■ Our performance in the Mediterranean may explain our performance in Atlanta

I have been thinking about all this, and I am ready to conclude that Britain's pitiful inability to get even halfway up the minor foothills of Olympus might have not a little to do with the decline of the whell.

Where I am ready to conclude this is on the same French beach on which you and I convened a fortnight ago in the Curious Case of the Twelve French Toes — and may I take this opportunity to thank all who wrote in to tell me that the French for toe is "doigt de pied", as I ought to have guessed, given the poverty of their vocabulary; though "foot-fingers" is pretty gross even for them, summing up as it does the memory of those Brooke Bond chipmunks stirring their tea with their feet — for I have returned to complete my holiday, and what have I returned to is a triumphalist France celebrating its fifth place in a medals table in which Britain ended up a dozen places below Kazakhstan.

I have thus been giving the matter much seaside reflection, in the hope of arriving at an explanation. I even looked, now that I know the word, for my polyglot friend, to ask him whether 12-toed Frenchmen were common and, if so, whether this would explain their athletics success. 20 per cent extra grip is not to be sneezed at, but he was no longer around; so I was left to lie here alone for the past couple of days, turning over in my mind all those fraught speculations about our failure too familiar to require further rehearsal, without, until this morning, spotting that I was staring one very plausible answer in, quite literally, the face.

The face was lying a yard or so from mine, fat, red, shiny, its eyes shut in sleep, its lips rippling, its nostrils flaring, as the belly below it rose up and down — but even when down, hid the beach beyond. What was on the beach beyond were three of the face's friends, similarly zonked: four Englishmen, each in his early twenties, who, had each not also been three stone overweight, might have been (I come right down to it) a relay team. But these faces weren't about to run anywhere: I had seen these faces before, when I arrived at the beach, and they had been sitting in the beach cafe, stuffing themselves with Full English Breakfasts, as advertised on the blackboard outside, and washing them down, moreover, with litres of lager to fuel them for the energetic ten-metre hobble to that spot on the sand where they could fall down, pass out, and turn scarlet.

The French, on the other hand, were running everywhere. The French first jog the five kilometres to the beach from wherever they have been doing their dawn aerobics, they next do their hundred press-ups, and after that they sprint down the sand and butterfly halfway to Africa before backstroking back to play two hours of volleyball. They do not do this on a Full English Breakfast, they do not even do it on a Full French Breakfast, they do it on a glass of carrot juice; and when it is noon they do not eat a Full French Lunch any more, they eat celery as they watch fat baked Englishmen wake up and struggle back into the beach cafe for the two kilos of cholesterol and the two bottles of fermented calories necessary to ensure an afternoon's uninterrupted kip.

And it suddenly dawned upon me today, as I stared in the blistering face beside me, that I had stared in it all over the Mediterranean, in Spain, in Italy, in Greece, in Portugal, in Turkey, in Morocco, in Tunisia, on all the myriad islands in between, and what it was was the face of an England which, after uncounted chilly centuries, had discovered the sun, and having discovered it, wanted only to eat and drink everything under it, and then crawl out on all fours and broil in it.

It was not ever thus. Until 1957, everybody went to Clacton and Blackpool, where they had to run about in the street just to stave off frostbite, sustaining themselves on whelks and winkles, the healthiest food there is, and sluicing them down with nourishing milk stout. Tripe-whine we may have been, but we were witty, then, with not a man-jack among us who couldn't run the mile of Southend Pier in four minutes, and that in overcoats and wellies. But in 1957, the first package tour flew off to Torremolinos, where it was too hot even for beach cricket.

Which may, indeed, also tell us something about our middle-order batting. Let me just lie here in the sun for a bit and think about that.

In Brussels and Washington, it

**invited to Young's house in Cookham, Berkshire, that usually a train went from Maidenhead to Paddington, but because of engineering problems, it was not working. A bus was running instead.**

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**of**

**Salinas de Gortari**

Evan Davis says the financial muscle of the State leads to exploitative, demoralised provision

## Public sector services, high street standards

This week has seen a sudden and seductive reassertion of the merits of state spending and government intervention. Just when you thought the world had fallen for the idea that private companies are the best vehicle for delivering anything, the public sector has fought back.

It's not just Juan Antonio Samaranch and his apparent disenchantment with the private sector's organisation of the Atlanta Olympics and his reported desire for municipal or government involvement in future events. A recent article in the National Institute of Economic and Social Research's quarterly review has challenged the conventional wisdom, and stirred up a fresh debate on that old topic — which is better, public or private? The backlash against private services has been most articulately expressed in the columns of this newspaper, by Anatole Kaletsky.

The argument now being offered is that unlike private companies, government has unique purchasing muscle, which it can use to limit spending on services, so costs do not escalate; to buy things cheaply, and also to borrow money at low interest rates, without, for example, paying generous profits to shareholders. To quote Kaletsky, these factors "are likely to outweigh by far the possible efficiencies that might be achieved by introducing better systems of management accounting, tighter financial control and more competition". In fact, he says, "commercialising public services will drive up the costs".

Now I am not sure whether Messrs Samaranch and Kaletsky themselves use government services — or if they do, whether they use that superior variety available only in richer suburban areas. However, their defence of the public sector may seem reassuring to the many people who have long suspected that the private sector revolution has gone too far, but were unable to say why.

Before traditional Labour supporters pin enlarged copies of Kaletsky's article onto their bedroom walls, however, they should examine his arguments more closely.

This new defence of the traditional model of public delivery — with services paid for by taxation and delivered by non-profit-making and non-competing public-sector organisations — is not based on any conception of social justice. Far from it. It is based on the fact that government can exploit nurses by paying them too little — to the advantage of the taxpayer — and can squeeze spending on schools and hospitals year after year, resisting upward pressure on costs.

If the argument were right, the fact that it was offensive to traditional

supporters of the public sector would not really matter. But unfortunately, it isn't. Big government can make economies, essentially by ripping off public suppliers, but it pays an inevitable price in doing so. It ends up with a state structure characterised by poorly motivated staff; organisations that have no inbuilt incentives to reward entrepreneurial or innovative behaviour, and which lack the pressures of takeover, bankruptcy, management change or even competition for custom.

As a result, public services are inflexible and slow to adapt. Examples abound; my current favourite is the Overseas Development Administration, which, incredibly, gives foreign assistance to Hong Kong and Singapore, even though both countries are now generally reckoned to be richer than we are ourselves. Indeed, credible academic evidence provides a case that the aid budget has almost no discernible effect on helping the vulnerable in poor countries.

Public services are also unresponsive to consumer demand. It has always seemed perverse that Camden council, for example, should choose to shut three-quarters of its public swimming-pools on Bank Holidays. (I gather this policy is now being reviewed by the private leisure company that has taken over the contract for running the facilities.)

No one really benefits from the stagnant nature of the State, but the most important point to remember is that those who suffer most from the mediocre quality of public services are the poor whom the services are primarily designed to help. They, after all, cannot shop for services elsewhere, nor do they get the choicest cuts available.

So the last thing that supporters of traditional state services need now is to be encouraged into complacency. If anything, the reverse. We need a Labour Party which is keen above all to make public services as good as Marks & Spencer's service. Forget the sophisticated reasoning which says that M&S has to borrow a bit more expensively, and cannot exploit its suppliers as effectively as a sovereign government; if our schools were as good as our shops, we would be a more successful nation.

And for any party wanting to position itself as a public-sector reform party, it is

the commercial mechanisms that produce a Marks & Spencer which need to be studied. The difference between the private sector and the public sector is not that one has 10 per cent more efficient management, or that the other has muscle to pay suppliers less. Or even that private businessmen are magically better (or worse) at organising international sporting events than municipal appointees.

No, the difference is in the far more significant and far longer-term ways that the commercial forces manifest themselves. It is that bad suppliers go to the wall, and good ones flourish — that when the time is right, M&S can grow and Woolworths shrink. New ideas are rewarded and experimentation encouraged. All in all, it's just the opposite of the forces that one observes operating over time in the public sector.

Of course, to operate commercial forces one has to pay commercial rates — for entrepreneurship, for motivated staff, for risk-taking investors. But like St Michael's chicken Kiev, it will turn out to be well worth the price.

So beware of the new arguments on offer. The challenge is to redesign the public sector, introducing pressures of a commercial kind for good performance, while preserving the desired elements of social justice. It is not an easy task. But in the great debate on how to run health, education, or the Olympic Games, this is not time to look backwards.

The author is visiting research fellow at the Social Market Foundation.

## Tudjman the terrible

### Misha Glenny says the Croatian leader has flourished by military might and is toying with the world community

European diplomats can wipe the sweat off their brows, after finally securing an agreement between the Bosnian Croats and Muslims in Mostar yesterday. On Monday, the EU was facing ignominious defeat in the capital of western Herzegovina. Tired officials at the US State Department were also working overtime to ensure that the Croatian President, Franjo Tudjman, fulfilled the assurances he offered President Clinton that the recalcitrant Bosnian Croats that would bring to heel.

And what was President Tudjman up to on Monday? Doing what the former Yugoslav Army general likes best: celebrating the regional might of the Croatian Army on the first anniversary of the crushing defeat it inflicted on rebel Serbs in the Krajina. The significance of this demonstration of Croatian military prowess will not have been lost on the Bosnian Muslims in eastern Mostar that that would be to their detriment.

For the agreement contains two fatal contradictions. Notwithstanding all the flowery rhetoric of human rights, civil liberties and unitary institutions, it permits the permanent presence of three armies in this small state, each associated with a different national group. When NATO finally leaves Bosnia, these three forces will be the ultimate source of authority in the country, and they are bound to reinforce the country's division. Elections, be they in Mostar or nationwide, will not alter this grim reality.

Secondly, there is the Bosnian Federation itself, established by the Americans and Germans as a tactical alliance between Muslims and Croats in March 1994. As everybody acknowledges, the Federation exists only on paper. Not one of the many institutions designed to shore it up functions in any meaningful sense. It is very difficult to understand how the idealistic constitutional provisions of Dayton can work if its presumed core, the Federation, is a fiction.

Despite the clouds over Mostar, senior State Department officials remain doggedly optimistic that President Tudjman is committed to reigning in the Bosnian Croats, who are regarded by most diplomats as a bunch of gangsters. Yet in the past few weeks the Croatian President has repeatedly hit back against the pressure being brought to bear by the Europeans on Croatia because of its Bosnia policy, saying that Croatia will never betray the interests of the Bosnian Croats. He has been more circumspect when it comes to the Americans, despite growing criticism in Washington of his autocratic rule in Croatia itself.

In his domestic policy, there is little to differentiate Tudjman's style from his Serbian counterpart, Slobodan Milošević. He closes down newspapers or television programmes which offend him. He shields indicted war criminals.



He manipulates the electoral process — as the long-running dispute between his party and the opposition over control of Zagreb's municipal council has demonstrated. His privatisation policy has succeeded in concentrating vast economic power in the hands of a small oligarchy, while the political and commercial influence of his children evokes the ugly ghosts of regnant ruling dynasties from the recent communist past.

At the beginning of the Yugoslav crisis, President Tudjman was regarded as a slightly bizarre caricature, given to hysterical outbursts and enamoured of a curious Habsburg and Titoist mixture of heraldic pomp. Few observers considered him a match for the Machiavellian skills of the apparently more

bloodthirsty Milošević. But behind this comic veil is hidden the brain of an extremely astute political fox, who has not only outmanoeuvred Milošević and the Bosnian Muslim leadership, but has led the international community a merry dance.

This has been Tudjman's real trump. From early on in the conflict, he understood that for Croatia to gain independence from Yugoslavia and to impose its solution on Bosnia-Herzegovina, the country required powerful international backers. First Germany and then the United States were prepared to offer their support. During 1993 and early 1994, Germany shielded Croatia from the threat of sanctions when regular Croatian troops were involved in the war against the Muslim

minority in Croatia, nothing can stop their co-operation.

There is one difference between the two. For its crimes, Serbia has suffered several years of economic sanctions and still enjoys a general status of international pariah. Croatia's reputation, by contrast, has not been so tarnished, despite the striking similarities between Tudjman and Milošević. Hats off to President Tudjman. He has waged war against democracy, a minority and a neighbouring state, and still gets invited to the opening ceremony of the Holocaust Museum in Washington. Who says you can't have your cake and eat it?

A new edition of Misha Glenny's book *The Fall of Yugoslavia* will appear in September.

Simon Jenkins is on holiday.

## Dublin or quits

DUBLIN's leading political refugee has broken cover. Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the disgraced former President of Mexico, has been living in the city for the past five months, but has only just begun to appear openly walking the streets.

President of Mexico until November 1994, Salinas has become something of a political Elvis since disappearing from public view in March last year. He was held largely responsible for Mexico's economy going from bad to downright disastrous, which resulted in America bailing it out to the tune of billions of dollars.

There were reported sightings of him as far afield as Cuba, Canada and Costa Rica, and reporters have spent months trying to find him.

He said he would remain in Ireland until he feels it "convenient" to return to his home country, where for many he has become a symbol of corruption.

In an interview with *The Irish Times* yesterday, Salinas said he was a keen follower of Northern Irish politics.

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### Diary

north London, offers "whingeing — gold — and finding fault with others". Tiers.

TO HEAR Iain Spratt, the Minister for Sport, wheezing out his plans for Britain's sporting rebirth on the radio yesterday, it seemed time to recommend a workout. At the moment, he likes to watch rugby and cricket and to go for walks. What he needs are good blood-pumping activities compatible with a political life.

The Diaries suggests:

1. The Colin Moynihan clean and jerk: grasp the diminutive former Minister for Sport by the neck and ankles and thrust him clean above

the head and hold for a few seconds. Ignore any squirming or claims to the contrary.

2. Coochie-Coochie Coe: tease Seb Coe for nothing in particular then sprint to avoid the tantrum. Guaranteed to work up a sweat.

3. The Chicken Run: perhaps not such a good idea for Spratt. In 1983, he abandoned his seat in Aberdeen South, which he had held for 13 years, in favour of what he hoped would be the safer Roxburgh and Berwickshire. He duly lost and

sadly no. The T-shirt belonged to a jumpy theatrical agent called Sashka, who bought it in Hampstead, and asked whimsically:

"Well hasn't everyone bought a T-shirt with a slogan that makes you go 'hmmmm'?" She is not a fan of John Redwood.

But the possibilities are not lost on Hywel Williams, the Tire to Redwood's Cicero. "An interesting franchising opportunity for the Conservative 2000 Foundation," he muses. "We should do a limited edition, perhaps signed by the director and myself."

• Emily Mortimer, the actress currently earning comparisons to Audrey Hepburn with her performance in *The Lights at the Royal Court*, discusses Russian chemists in the latest issue of *Harpers & Queen*. "For blisters I was given green plasters that I was told to stick on my feet, out of which an antiseptic seeped. The other oddity I bought in Russia was mustard, attached to bits of paper. When you have a cold, you lay them on your chest and inhale like Vick."

### Bumpy ride

YESTERDAY saw a chesty blonde stroll into Christopher's restaurant in Covent Garden wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the slogan: "Redwood '96". A government minister at a nearby table pondered whether, like the Rolling Stones, Redwood had produced a tatty T-shirt for his recent trip to America.

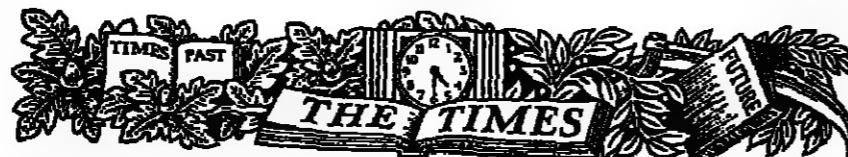
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## DOWN THE TUBE

For London's sake, the Underground strikers must not win

Millions of commuters, tourists and ordinary travellers will again today suffer the weekly misery of fighting for a place on overcrowded mainline trains in and out of London, crawling through traffic jams or trudging long distances on foot across the beleaguered city. The latest one-day strike by London Underground drivers will stoke public anger against the strikers. Despite intensive talks between management negotiators and leaders of the RMT and Aslef unions — whose pleasure at inflicting pain smacks of industrial sadism — the dispute shows no sign of resolution. To those outside the capital the dispute may seem irrelevant, but vital issues are at stake. The outcome matters not only to Londoners, but to every city attempting to improve its infrastructure.

This dispute is not really about money. Nor is it about flexible rostering, though that is the aggrieved mantra repeated in every doorstep interview. It is about the right of management to manage and the refusal of unions to see their powers eroded. The point at issue is whether London Underground can demand, as the price of a pay rise, that unions surrender their traditional right to organise the holiday roster. As is obvious to any traveller, the summer season brings millions of extra visitors to the capital. The Underground needs to run extra trains, not to cancel capacity because hundreds of drivers are on holiday.

Satisfying the market is the most elementary duty of any manager in any industry. This is the reason why London Underground managers must not concede the unions' demands. For the strike comes at a time when they are showing considerable success in improving one of the world's largest, oldest and most complex public transport networks. Seven years ago the London Underground, long starved of investment, was in a parlous state, the butt of public discontent. Breakdowns were

common, morale low, equipment and rolling stock dangerously antiquated. The boom of the late Eighties only added to the woes of an overstretched system. More than any other factor, the creeping paralysis in public transport tarnished London's attraction as a world business centre.

Since then, the Underground has made quiet progress. Management has improved information systems, repaired stations, increased efficiency and mapped out long-term programme of expansion, with new lines and new services. Passengers seem to have responded to the improved services with a greater willingness to use the tube. Last year there were 784 million passenger journeys on the Underground, a 3 per cent increase over 1994 and is now approaching its previous record. Revenue was up and unit costs were down. Over the next decade, the system promises a steadily decreasing need for public subsidy.

The Underground's success has lessons for every big city. It is a publicly run and publicly funded system, and will remain so for the foreseeable future — its complexity and shared infrastructure appear to make privatisation impractical in the foreseeable future. The management has worked within the vagaries of government policy and Treasury capital limits.

The pay-off from public transport investment is hard to show on a municipal balance sheet; nor can the cost of traffic chaos be easily quantified. But all cities — among them Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield — that have invested in public transport have, sooner or later, seen the benefits: more business, more confidence, a cleaner environment and a satisfied public. London's Underground once set an example for the world to regain that role, its management must have the freedom to initiate and innovate. That is why today's strikers must not prevail.

## DOLE GOES FOR GROWTH

Tax plan enhances party unity and his prospects

For a candidate routinely portrayed as particularly dull, Robert Dole has shown a flair for the dramatic this summer. After his surprise decision to leave the US Senate in June, he has been bold once again by opting for the most radical of the economic options his advisers presented to him.

The Dole plan is as ambitious in scope as that which Ronald Reagan brought to Washington — and equally short on detail of the many unpopular cuts in government programmes which it would entail. The proposals that Dole outlined in Chicago would produce a 15 per cent tax cut across the board and require enormous cuts in public spending to produce a balanced budget by 2002.

Mr Dole's new-found faith in the supply-side doctrine that low taxes will automatically generate rapid non-inflationary growth and smaller federal deficits represents a philosophical shift. Traditionally he has had a more austere approach to economics, based on the persistent pursuit of a balanced budget. His devotion to orthodoxy led to votes against the major tax reductions of the Kennedy-Johnson era and a barely concealed contempt for the supply-side enthusiasts of the early 1980s. His philosophy was closer to the Republicanism of Herbert Hoover than to Ronald Reagan.

Recently, however, Mr Dole has changed, working closely with Newt Gingrich to produce a blueprint that claimed both to slash taxes by \$245 billion and to balance the budget by 2002. That Bill fell victim to President Clinton's veto. The Chicago speech was thus a continuation of the new radical Republican consensus: significant reductions in taxation; big cuts in government spending; and a balanced budget sanctified

by constitutional amendment. Mr Reagan delivered only the first of these promises. If a President Dole could fulfil all three he would transform American economics and politics.

For Mr Dole this daring choice was probably unavoidable, since it will allow him to base his election campaign in an area where his party is united. Whatever their differences on social policy — especially abortion and the influence of the small religious Right — virtually all Republicans embrace the economic outlook that their candidate will now champion. The voting public regards President Clinton with suspicion on issues of public revenues, despite the excellent performance of the American economy under his watch.

Mr Dole therefore believes that the more he can associate himself with the themes of minimal taxation, smaller government and rapid economic growth, the greater will be his chances in the November contest. The White House is aware of its weaknesses if the battle is waged on this terrain. Democrats rushed to highlight how much Mr Dole had moved towards the fiscal philosophy of Mr Gingrich, and suggested an election year conversion. For Bill Clinton to accuse any other politician of inconsistency and poll-driven policy is the height of hypocrisy. The economic performance of the Reagan years, with real annual growth averaging virtually 4 per cent between 1983 and 1989, is there to be judged. The difficulty then was the failure to attack federal expenditure and thereby avoid budget deficits. If Mr Dole can make a compelling case for the parallel reduction in both tax and spending, then his economic message may yet kick-start his stagnant campaign.

## COMING HOME

Brown ale and claret should toast the rover's return

Few prodigal sons have commanded such prodigious sums as Alan Shearer. The Geordie schoolboy who made hearts pound harder under three-lined shirts this summer returned in triumph to his native Newcastle yesterday with pounds rather than palms strewing his golden boots. His return, from Blackburn, to the corner of England where he first learnt to test the strength of the netting is worthy of a double celebration. It is glorious affirmation that one's feet feel most comfortable where they first touched the ground and it is a symbol of the cultural and economic regeneration of Geordieland.

Alan Shearer is not the first football hero to return to the smokestacks of his youth after delighting the world from Lancashire. Sir Stanley Matthews, the Hermes-heeled winger who brought glory to Blackpool and style to an England shirt in the Fifties, returned to his hometown club, Stoke City, in 1961. Wiseacres of the time derided the money lavished on a player thought past his best. But the winger was worthy of his hire. Sir Stan attracted 35,288 spectators and transformed a ground described as a graveyard with floodlights by bringing in many thousands more than he cost.

Newcastle United will have to have many thousands more seats in the new stadium their chairman, Sir John Hall, plans for them if they are to make back the £15 million Alan Shearer cost. But then Sir John has already shown his skill in making back millions on outrageous investments. When the shipyards of the Tyne fell silent and

Northumberland's colliery wheels spun their last, he bought up acres outside Gateshead and built a shopping mall while pay-packets dwindled. The MetroCentre could have been a white elephant, but it became a bloated cash cow.

Now, reborn confidence and rising sun technology have transformed the North East. To match the industrial makeover Sir John proposes a football facilifit with a Newcastle Sporting Club, after the style of Barcelona or Lisbon, which gives its supporters rugby, soccer, boxing and more in surroundings to shame the South. The dreams of civic improvement entertained by the too-easily tempted T. Dan Smith are now being realised, but by modern enterprise not municipal socialism.

Socialism's shade is shrinking in the area even as it attracts the best of new Labour. The Majorite mafia in East Anglia is matched by the Blairite *broederbond* in the North East. From Peter Mandelson, the Hartlepool Tallyrand, to the shrewd Stephen Byers in Wallsend and the intelligent Alan Milburn in Darlington, not to mention Mo Mowlam and Doug Henderson, the heart of new Labour lies twixt Tyne and Tees.

When the late John Smith attended a party in Tony Blair's constituency he asked for a drink and was offered, in a metaphor for modernisation. Brown Ale or claret. Whether it is Newcastle Brown in North Shields or Château Talbot in Tynemouth, Geordies should be raising a glass this week to their renaissance and the rover's return.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Moral implications of aborting a twin and of destroying human embryos

From the Right Reverend Lord Habgood

Sir, Libby Purves ("How we dished our values", August 6) is right. The medical profession has slid too far in trying to match reproductive performance to individual wishes, and it is time to re-establish some basic moral principles.

The moral justification for abortion rests on the principle that it is a choice between two evils, and on the belief that personhood, and hence the moral value of the foetus, grows from imperceptible beginnings up to the stage at which the foetus is capable of independent existence. At this point abortion becomes infanticide.

There should thus be a close relationship between the gravity of the reason for an abortion and the stage of development at which it is performed.

Talk about frozen embryos as "babies" confuses the issue. Unless we are to ascribe full personal value to every new genetic combination, the main moral value of a conceptus must lie in the hopes invested in it by its parents. If they do not want it, then morally speaking it is not much different from the millions of unmonitored early miscarriages.

The fact that frozen embryos have been deliberately created and are consciously destroyed adds an obligation to do so with respect. But to ascribe personhood to them runs the risk of employing the term of any useful meaning.

A 16-week-old foetus is another matter altogether. The most disturbing feature of the present case is not so much that one twin should be taken and the other left, but that any foetus at this stage of development should be aborted for purely social reasons.

Unless there are special circumstances which have not been made public, this would seem to me morally

indefensible, and contrary to the clear intentions of the Abortion Act. The fact that the BMA regards it as normal (report, August 5) only compounds the offence.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HABGOOD,  
18 The Mount,  
Malton, North Yorkshire.  
August 6.

From Mr Tom Morrell

Sir, I am deeply disturbed by the attitude of the BMA that the abortion of a perfectly healthy twin is "no different from any other abortion". In that it robs a child of its life that is probably correct, but it also deprives the surviving infant of a lifelong companion and friend.

In observing my own three-year-old twins I can detect that they have an intuitive understanding of each other and provide loyal support at times of crisis, which my other young children could not possibly satisfy.

The surgeon concerned gives one reason for the decision as "straitened circumstances". Help and support are available to the mothers of twins through the Twins and Multiple Births Association, from friends, neighbours, and even social services.

"The 'heartache' experienced by Ian Craft, Director of the London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre, and others vindicates the moral argument against performing selective terminations. Perhaps it's time for the Abortion Act to be at least amended.

Sincerely,  
TOM MORRELL,  
43 Cranes Park Avenue,  
Surbiton, Surrey.

From Mrs T. Y. Benyon

Sir, As a parent who has two children as a result of infertility treatment, I was interested to read the letter of July 31 from the Archbishop of Glasgow and others which sought a ban on the creation of excess embryos during in-vitro fertilisation (IVF).

The number of embryos produced during a treatment cycle depends on each individual's response to the drugs used to stimulate ovulation. With some women several eggs will reach maturity; others may have no eggs to collect.

Not all the eggs removed will fertilise when mixed with sperm to form an embryo and not all embryos will be

considered healthy enough to reintroduce into the womb.

The success rate for IVF is only about 30 per cent at the best clinics, so nature seems to be doing an efficient job of selection at every stage.

A fifth of all confirmed pregnancies end in miscarriage and it is a sad fact that many thousands of embryos are lost every day naturally, or by the use of contraceptive devices, and by socially acceptable terminations.

IVF is primarily concerned with the creation of life and has given hope to many couples who would be childless without it. For one give thanks to God for the skill and technology that made my family a reality.

Yours faithfully,  
A. C. GRIFFIN,  
18 Marianne Road,  
Talbot Village,  
Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.  
August 2.

From Mrs Mary Russell

Sir, I cannot understand all the fuss about the destruction of some 3,000 human embryos (report, August 2). The point that matters in this over-argued debate is that when you produce human life in the laboratory you debase the miracle of new life to just another commodity.

Having done so, there is no particular surprise to find yourself facing issues typical of all commodities, such as how to dispose of those which are extra to requirements.

The destruction of human embryos may indeed diminish us all as some say. But the real diminishment was accomplished by their production in the first place.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY RUSSELL,  
5 Cedar Road, Sutton, Surrey.  
August 3.

### White lies

From Mr Duncan Bryson

Sir, Dr Johnson may have worried over fabricating his report of Parliament, as Simon Jenkins asserts ("Joe Klein and his white lie", July 27), but did not seem so concerned about initially denying his authorship of *London*, a satire on the government of the day.

No one was more zealous for truth, but he conceded:

that what a man has no right to say, you may refuse to communicate and there is no other effectual mode of preserving a secret; and an important secret, the discovery of which may be very hurtful to you, but a flat denial; for if you are silent, or hesitate, or evade, it will be held equivalent to a confession.

All opinion polls point to a rejection

by the British people of a single currency. We are therefore right to refuse to have our own money used to subsidise pro-EMU propaganda as Mr Szemerey suggests.

The Chinese are said to charge the

families of those they execute for the

bullets used in the process. There

seems no reason to import this unsavoury practice to Britain.

Yours faithfully,

DUNCAN BRYSON,

109 Martin Avenue, Irvine, Ayrshire.

July 27.

from

**Chocolate producers**

From the Director of the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance

Sir, The British chocolate market was worth more than £3 billion in 1995, so there is plenty of room for all types, including those promoted by Tony Patrick in the *Chocolate Box* column (Weekend, July 20).

However, what evidence has there that large cocoa buyers renege on agreements? And why does he think that large manufacturers are uncaring for the welfare of labourers?

This alliance has long urged the producing countries to develop alternative methods of pest control. Where the use of agri-chemicals is essential we aim to ensure that these are strictly controlled.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN NEWMAN,  
Director,  
The Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance,  
37-41 Bedford Row, WC1.

August 1.

### Maddened by bells

From Mr M. D. Eden

Sir, A letter today, in defence of bell-ringing, was printed thus: "Visiting other churches broadens the experience of ringers, as does the occasional peal."

Are you advocating bell-ringing in the buff? I think we should be tolled.

Yours etc,

M. D. EDEN,

38 Arkwright Road, NW3.

August 5.

### Down on the farm?

From Miss Anne Molyneux

Sir, According to your newspaper today, we are invited, if we "know a benefit rip-off", to "give us a telephone tip-off"; an inquiry into A-level grades cannot proceed because "officials say exam papers from earlier decades have been hard to find"; and made-to-measure body armour, to be known as "Metvest", is to be issued to 28,000 Metropolitan Police officers.

Brush up your Orwell. Start quoting him now. Perhaps only the date was inaccurate.

Yours faithfully,

ANNE MOLYNEUX,

Masons (solicitors),

30 Aylesbury Street, EC1.

August 5.

Business letters, page 27



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
August 6: Lady Dugdale has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
August 6: Miss Jane Walker-Okeover has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady in Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

### Today's royal engagements

The Queen will embark in *HMY Britannia* at Portsmouth at 4.55 and will cruise in the Western Isles.

### Service dinner

**222 (Natal) Squadron RAF**  
Mr Joe Crawshaw, Chairman of 222 (Natal) Squadron RAF Reunion Association, received the keys to a dinner held last night at the New Norfolk Hotel, Birmingham, of former members of the squadron and their ladies.

### Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** John Ayrton Paris, physician, Cambridge, 1785; Frederic William Farrar, writer of school stories, Dean of Canterbury 1892-1903, Bombay, 1893; Sir Granville Bantock, composer, London, 1868; Louis Leakey, archaeologist and anthropologist, Nairobi, Kenya, 1903; Ralph Johnson Bunche, diplomat, Nobel Peace laureate 1950, Detroit, 1964.

**DEATHS:** Robert Blake, parliamentarian and admiral, at sea off Plymouth, 1657; Caroline, Queen Consort of King George JV, London, 1821; Joseph Marie Jacquot, silk weaver, Oullins, France, 1834; Aleksandr Blok, Russian poet, 1921; Curtaurion Gregorio Ricci, mathematician, 1928; Konstantin Stanislavsky, actor and co-founder of the Moscow Art Theatre, Moscow, 1938; Sri Rabindranath Tagore, poet, philosopher, Calcutta, 1941.

Parliament passed an act prohibiting the employment of boys as chimney sweeps, 1840. The first British Grand Prix was run at Brooklands, 1926.

## Birthdays today

The Right Rev David Bentley, Bishop of Gloucester, 61; Air Commodore Colin Cadell, 50; Mr Greg Chappell, cricketer, 46; Mr Neil Clarke, chairman, British Coal, 62; Professor H.L. Elvin, former director, London University Institute of Education, 91; Mr Matthew Evans, chairman and managing director, Faber and Faber, 55; Sir Ian Fraser, former chairman, Lazarus Brothers, 73; the Right Rev A.A.K. Graham, Bishop of Newcastle, 67; Sir Paul Hawkins, former MP, 54; Mr J.H. Jackson, company secretary, British Gas, 48; Mr Kenneth Kendall, broadcaster, 72; Sir Andrew Large, chairman, Securities and Investment Board, 54; Mr Owen Luder, president, Royal Institute of British Architects, 68; Mr A.G. McRae, former chairman, British Ports Association, 37; Dame Ella Mackintosh, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 92; Vice-Admiral Sir Hector MacLean, 88; Mr Peter Niven, jockey, 32; Mr Matthew Parris, former MP, author and broadcaster, 47; Mr Nick Ross, broadcaster, 41; Mr Alastair Smart, comedian, 44; Baroness Sebag-Montefiore, 71; Mr Roger Stott, MP, 53; Mr Walter Sykes, chairman and chief executive, Glaxo Wellcome, 54; Mr Allen Thoms, world-wide creative director, J. Walter Thompson, 52; Mr John Woodcock, cricket writer, 70; Mr J.A. Young, chairman, Young and Company's Brewery, 52.

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. Chetwray-Talbot and Miss P.J. Tolman  
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Chetwray-Talbot, of Cowfold, York, and Penelope, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tolman, of Thorp Arch, Yorkshire.

Squadron Leader P.R. Delahunt-Kinner and Flight Lieutenant H.F. Phillips

The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Kinner, of Hale, Cheshire, and Henrietta, youngest daughter of the late Mr Harold Pittman and of Mrs Pittman, of Maldon, Essex.

### Lady Fitzpatrick

A service of Thanksgiving for the life of Mary Sare, Fitzpatrick will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at noon on Tuesday, September 10.

**University news**  
**Bristol**  
The Council of Bristol University has approved the title of Emeritus Professor to the following on their retirement (on July 31):

Professor D.K. Bailey, Geology; Professor E. Braun, Drama; Professor R.N. Dixon, Chemistry; Professor E.G. Ellision, Mechanical Engineering; Professor J.E. Enderby, Physics; Professor E. Hoyle, Education; Professor S.L. Millman, Policy Studies (retired December 31, 1995); Professor H. Chisholm, Economics; Professor P. Studdert, Political Studies; Professor H. Pearson, Veterinary Sciences; Professor C.J.P. Williams, Philosophy.

The following is to be awarded honorary chairmen (from August 1): Dr J. Daniels, Director of the Bristol Institute of Transfusion Sciences and of the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory; Dr A. Gaith, Consultant Paediatric Oncologist and Haematologist at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

The following is to be awarded the title of reader (from August 1): Mr D. Alderson, Surgery; Dr R.L. Brady, Biochemistry; Dr M.R. Carroll, Geology; Dr I.C. Cuthill, Biological Sciences; Dr R.P. Everard, Chemistry.

Dr A.W. Preece has been appointed reader on his transfer from the United Bristol Healthcare Trust.



Navigating the ice-floes of the Weddell Sea, one of the George Marston paintings of the Shackleton Expedition

## Painter catches fight for polar survival

PAINTINGS made during one of the great polar exploits in the history of British exploration have surfaced in London after nearly 80 years.

The five previously unpublished pictures depicting Sir Ernest Shackleton's trans-Antarctic expedition of 1914-17 have emerged from a private English collection. The oil paintings, by George Marston, a member of the expedition, illustrate the dramas that befell the team after their ship, the *Endurance*, was stuck in the ice in January 1915. Having

salvaged boats, provisions and sledges from the ship, which finally sank on November 21, 1915, the 23-man crew found themselves in drifting ice 350 miles from the nearest land.

In April 1916, after an exhausting journey by sledge and boat, they reached Elephant Island, from where Shackleton and five crew members set sail on the *James Caird* on a perilous voyage for help to South Georgia 800 miles away. The remaining men on Elephant Island were rescued after camping beneath

upturned boats for 102 days.

Nicholas Lambourn, of Christie's topographical picture department, who expects the paintings to fetch a total of up to £40,000 on September 27, said yesterday: "Marston was a solid member of the team and his paintings are incredibly rare. They reflect one of the truly great polar adventures — less tragic than Scott's expedition but nonetheless equally daunting. These paintings chart an extraordinary tale of courage and survival against the odds."

### Church news

Recent appointments include:

The Rev Christopher Macdonald,

Curate, Eastbourne All Saints;

to be Curate, Polegate (Chichester).

The Rev Will Fiddle, Curate,

Kingtons, Cleghorn, Eaton

Bishop, Almoners and Thurston;

to be Assistant Director of Training (Hereford), with pastoral oversight for the parishes of St Michael, Bocketon; St Andrew, Leyshay; St James the Great, Kimbolton; St Dubricius and All Saints'; Hannish; St Mary the Virgin, Middleton on the Hill, same diocese.

The Rev Michael Sabell, Senior

Diocesan Chaplain for Lichfield

Diocesan Council, with Deaf

People; to be Priest-in-charge,

Great and Little Wymondley

and Diocesan Chaplain among Deaf

People (St Albans).

The Rev Raymond Smith, Vicar, St

Mary Magdalene, Tilehurst (Oxford); to be Team Rector, Haywards Heath (Chichester).

The Rev Richard Smith, Rector,

Hulland, Aitow, Bradley,

Hogmorton and Kniveton (Derby);

to be Priest-in-charge, Long Compton, Winchfield and Barson on the Heath (Coventry).

The Rev David Stevens, Rector,

parish of Central Wolverhampton (Wolverhampton); to be Vicar, Highworth w Sevenhampton and Inglesham and Hannington (Bristol).

The Rev Daniel Tyndall, Curate,

parish of St James, Great Kimbolton;

to be Curate, to be known as Associate Vicar, benefice and parish of St Mary Redcliffe w Temple, Bristol, and St John the Baptist, Bedminster.

The Rev Paul Watson, Team Vicar, Borehamwood (St Albans); to be Vicar, Immanuel and All Saints' Oswaldtwistle (Blackburn).

The Rev Richard Weller, Vicar,

Birstall St Peter, and Rural Dean

of Birstall to be Vicar, St Thomas, Gawber (Wakefield).

The Rev Andrew West, Curate, St

John's, Blackpool (Blackburn); to

be Team Vicar, Bedworth Team

Ministry (Coventry).

### Resignations and retirements

The Rev Gordon Benfield, Vicar, Illogan (Truro); to be Vicar, Highworth w Sevenhampton and Sherbourne (Coventry); to retire on September 30.

The Rev Derek Ching, Vicar, Butlers Marston and the Pillerton (Coventry); to retire on September 30.

The Rev Michael Henley, Vicar, Grobridge (Chichester); to retire October 31.

The Rev John Stevenson, Diocesan Ministry Development Advisor and Priest-in-charge, Leamington Hastings and Birdcagebury (Diocese of Coventry); to retire on October 31.

### Pewterers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Pewterers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr J.P. Hull; Upper

Warden, Dr G.M. Pitt; Renter

Warden, Mr M.J.W. Piercy.

### Retirement

His Honour Judge Irvine retired on July 31 from the Circuit Bench on the Midland and Oxford Circuit, and not the Western Circuit.

### Latest wills

Recent estates include (not before tax):

Mr Frank Arthur Wickham, of Pinney, Middlesex ..... £623,208

Mrs Ethel Iris Gardner, of Farnham, Surrey ..... £1,147,018

Mr Kenneth Jones, of Ryton, Tyne and Wear ..... £339,429

strated, as has the survival of blood and muscle cells after brain death and cessation of heartbeat.

Discoloration of paper and textiles by oxidative chain reactions, even in darkness, is also well known to curators. Dr Mills says, and that would account for the faint yellow tone of the shroud image. The rapid decay of the singlet molecules after adsorption onto the linen would prevent diffusion within the fibres; only the top layer of the shroud's threads is discoloured.

The image would have been latent to begin with, but would have become more apparent after decades of storage in a dark, dry place. An unusual combination of circumstances, each not remarkable in itself, could have yielded the effect seen, today without miraculous intervention.

Dr Mills's thesis thus explains how the Turin Shroud could have acquired its striking portrayal of a tormented body, and corroborates studies which suggest that the image was not produced by any known artistic technique. What it does not do is to indicate whose body it was, where he came from, or when he was briefly wrapped in the cloth; while another layer of mystery may have been peeled away from the shroud, a cloud of unknowing remains.

Source: *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews*, Vol 20:319-327



The Turin Shroud: whose body was it?

## Image on Turin Shroud 'did come from man's body'

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE Turin Shroud's image of a tortured man may indeed have been created by contact with a fresh corpse. Avoiding

"religious connotations and associations as far as possible", Dr Allan Mills proposes that diffusion of oxygen atoms from the body produced the faint image believed by many to be the crucified Christ.

For centuries the shroud, kept at Antrebury and later Turin, has been remarked for its smudged outline of the back and front of a body. Only when it was photographed did the negative image spring to life, showing a bearded man with what appeared to be pierced wrists and feet and bloodstained head.

Radiocarbon dating in 1989 indicated that the cloth itself was of medieval date, and that the shroud could thus not have been the winding-sheet of Christ, although that in turn has been challenged by a controversial new technique (*The Times*, March 25, 1996). How the human image was created has remained a mystery, however. That, together with the recent suggestion (*The Times*, July 8, 1996) that the impression of a Roman coin has been detected on the shroud, reopens the controversy over the relic's age.

Dr Mills's "reactive oxygen intermediates hypothesis" proposes that "singlet oxygen" behaves as an activated form of the common molecule, able to cross cell membranes in the body but also capable of interacting with the fibres of the linen shroud during its short life. "Within the past decade it has become increasingly recognised that diseases and other challenges to the body can result in breakdown of normal controls, with toxic or even lethal consequences," he says.

This "oxidative stress" can be caused by trauma, shock, connective tissue damage, and injury to the central nervous system. The singlet form of oxygen was produced under just such conditions, "by superoxide reactions in severely traumatised but still surviving surface cells of his body". Release of singlet oxygen from living tissue has been demon-

## Rail viaducts saved

BY JOHN SHAW

Council in 1993. The grant provided almost 78 per cent of the repair bill and great effort was made to ensure that conservation and repair work was in keeping with the Victorian original.

Existing timbers were matched with secondhand materials. A stream was dammed to carry out work on the foundations of the trestles. Many of the original sleepers were missing. They were replaced using the traditional long-nail fixings to match the original construction.

Five trains a day used the line when it opened in 1848. The 40-minute journey from Maldon to Braintree cost 2s and 6d first class.

## TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

### PERSONAL COLUMN

#### THANKSGIVING SERVICES

**BALLY** - Edward Owen, 1919-1996. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at the Church of the Ascension, Bally, on Saturday, August 10, at 11.30 am.

**GREEN** - Francis George on 15th August 1996 after a long illness. Beloved husband of Pauline (nee Flanagan) and father of Christopher and Christopher. Services will be held at the church of St. Brigid, Bally, on Saturday, August 17, at 11.30 am.

**VULSON** - On 3rd August 1996, Margaret Kathleen (Georgie) Vulson, 86, of Bally, died peacefully at home. She was born in 1910 in Bally, Co. Down, and was the beloved wife of the late Tom Vulson. Margaret is survived by her son, Christopher, and her daughter, Margaret (nee Flanagan) Vulson, both of whom reside in Bally.

**WILSON** - On 3rd August 1996, Margaret Wilson, 86, of Bally, died peacefully at home. She was born in 1910 in Bally, Co. Down, and was the beloved wife of the late Tom Wilson. Margaret is survived by her son, Christopher, and her daughter, Margaret (nee Flanagan) Vulson, both of whom reside in Bally.

**WRIGHT** - Margaret (nee Flanagan) Wright, 86, of Bally, died peacefully at home on 1st August 1996. She was born in 1910 in Bally, Co. Down, and was the beloved wife of the late Tom Wright. Margaret is survived by her son, Christopher, and





THE TIMES WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7 1996

In the first *Times* guide to estate agents, Rachel Kelly names the top men and women regarded as experts in the property business

# Selling your house? Call in super agent

**W**ho should sell your house? The answer could be in *The Times* guide to the top agents around the country. Sellers would do well to heed its conclusions.

Of course, estate agencies sell houses. An individual needs the back-up, marketing expertise and support of his or her office. But the business of selling houses is peculiarly personal. Most estate agents work on individual commissions on top of a basic salary. One agent's epic struggle to sell can be another's seamless deal. As Jonathan Haward, from the buying agent County Home-search, says: "Individuals in different firms can make or break a deal."

This is particularly true in the country, where estate agencies operate independently. In London, the top agencies share information about houses on the market after an initial period in which its agents single-handedly try to sell each property.

So which are the best names behind the agencies? Who should you be asking for when the switchboard rings? "Knight Frank" or "Savills"? It would, of course, be invidious to ask the agents themselves to recommend the most effective individuals. So we contacted experts from buying companies who act for buyers, rather than sellers, and who daily experience the expertise of agents.

The Chelsea-based Bedrock International is run by Jan Hessel de Jong and charges a £1,000 retainer or 3 per cent of the buying price of the property. Sir Nicholas Couper runs Homefront, another London-based buying company. Other buying agents were also involved in our

survey, but preferred to remain anonymous. The results list the top 40 agents in the country.

These are the country's best sellers. They are the ones who, we believe, will get the best price for your house. But this list does not include the names to call should you wish to buy a house. Precisely because they are so expert at selling, and drive such a good deal for their clients, these agents are almost the last people a potential buyer should call. However, if you are after a particular type of house and are prepared to pay the asking price, they will certainly have some fine properties on their books.

Although the agents here act for sellers, most of the partners and principal directors of the top London agents have acted for buyers. They operate an informal network, tipping off each other if there is a buyer in town after a special property. There is no conflict of interest, they say, because agents never act for a buyer on a property they are selling.

So you may be able to persuade some of these top 40 sellers to turn poacher and act for you as a buyer, but mind their fees.

We judged them on their initial ability to price a property, to negotiate its pros and cons; to follow up inquiries, to supply information to would-be buyers; to recognise a good offer; and, finally, whether they dealt with the best properties in their area and had access to the best potential clients.

Inevitably, the estate agents mentioned in this article are those handling more expensive property as they are the ones known to buying agents. Smaller, local



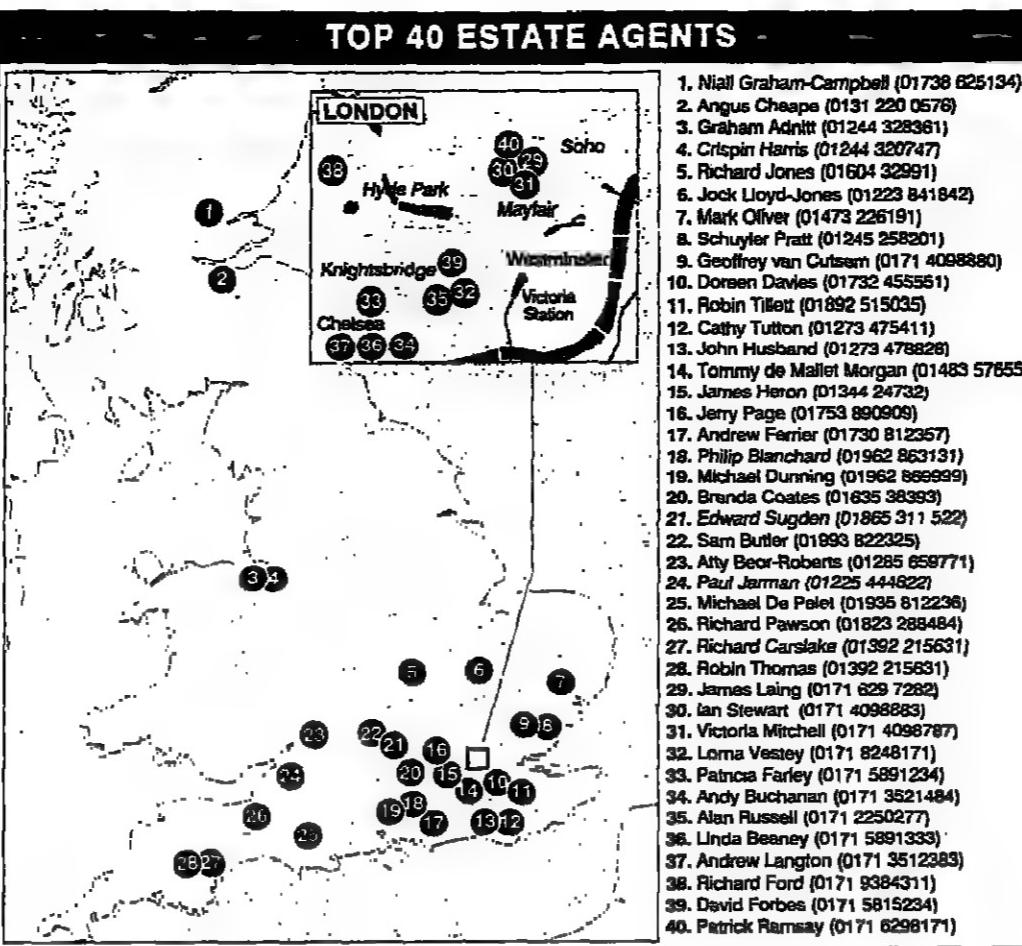
Patricia Farley

agents, of course, also have stars among their staff. The best advice for those choosing a local agent to sell a cheaper house is to study its shop window and try to identify the best agent for handling your type of property. Ask friends and neighbours, too, for recommendations.

The National Association of Estate Agents advises potential sellers to ask the company how it plans to sell the house. How many other houses of this type has it sold? Does it plan to advertise? If so, who pays?

But if your house is in the £100,000-plus bracket, welcome to *The Times* guide. If you wish to sell a house in Kensington, the highly experienced Richard Ford, son of a former royal courtier, from Knight Frank, is probably your best bet. For those wishing to sell an expensive London flat, Knight Frank's Lorna Vestey gets top marks.

Andy Buchanan from John D. Wood's Chelsea office is considered the king of selling Chelsea houses.



## TOP 40 ESTATE AGENTS

Savills' office is said to be worth a call, as is Robin Tillett of Knight Frank in Tunbridge Wells. Both handle town and country properties, ranging from upwards of £250,000.

In the country, Athy Bear-Roberts from Knight Frank is Kingfisher in Gloucestershire. In Berkshire, James Heron from the same company was much cited for his excellence. Try Brenda Coates from Doreen Davies.

shire-based Philip Blanchard from John D. Wood's office in Winchester was consistently mentioned. So was Michael Dunning from Lane Fox's office in Winchester. An expert in Shires property, Geoffrey van Cutsem of Savills' Chelmsford branch was described as "the most pre-eminent residential estate agent in the country house market". Ian Stewart is another Savills all-rounder, an excellent agent as well as an intrepid skier; his knowledge of the Home Counties area equals that of van Cutsem. James Laing of Strutt & Parker is another top all-round Home Counties salesman. So is Patrick Ramsay from Knight Frank.

In Oxfordshire, Edward Sugden from John D. Wood is worthy of mention, as is Sam Butler of Butler Sherborn's Burford office. In Somerset, Richard Pawson of Humberside is the man to sell your country house. If you are looking to sell a large property within 20 miles of Bath, then pay a visit to Paul Jarman of Savills' Avon branch.

In Surrey, Tommy de Mallet Morgan of Savills' Guildford office is voted top all-round agent by Mr Hessel de Jong, from Bedrock. "He has exceptional local and market knowledge, and his follow-ups are excellent, fast and accurate," he says.

In the east of the country, Mark Oliver of Savills' Ipswich branch is an expert at selling Suffolk country houses. Near by in Essex, Schuyler Pratt from Strutt & Parker was singled out for praise. In Scotland, Angus Cheape from Langley-Taylor in Edinburgh was cited as exceptional. So, too, was Niall Graham-Campbell of Finlayson Hughes in Perth.



Geoffrey van Cutsem



Victoria Mitchell

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survey, but preferred to remain anonymous. The results list the top 40 agents in the country.

These are the country's best sellers. They are the ones who, we believe, will get the best price for your house. But this list does not include the names to call should you wish to buy a house. Precisely because they are so expert at selling, and drive such a good deal for their clients, these agents are almost the last people a potential buyer should call. However, if you are after a particular type of house and are prepared to pay the asking price, they will certainly have some fine properties on their books.

Although the agents here act for sellers, most of the partners and principal directors of the top London agents have acted for buyers. They operate an informal network, tipping off each other if there is a buyer in town after a special property. There is no conflict of interest, they say, because agents never act for a buyer on a property they are selling.

So you may be able to persuade some of these top 40 sellers to turn poacher and act for you as a buyer, but mind their fees.

We judged them on their initial ability to price a property, to negotiate its pros and cons; to follow up inquiries, to supply information to would-be buyers; to recognise a good offer; and, finally, whether they dealt with the best properties in their area and had access to the best potential clients.

Inevitably, the estate agents mentioned in this article are those handling more expensive property as they are the ones known to buying agents. Smaller, local

agents, of course, also have stars among their staff. The best advice for those choosing a local agent to sell a cheaper house is to study its shop window and try to identify the best agent for handling your type of property. Ask friends and neighbours, too, for recommendations.

The National Association of Estate Agents advises potential sellers to ask the company how it plans to sell the house. How many other houses of this type has it sold? Does it plan to advertise? If so, who pays?

But if your house is in the £100,000-plus bracket, welcome to *The Times* guide. If you wish to sell a house in Kensington, the highly experienced Richard Ford, son of a former royal courtier, from Knight Frank, is probably your best bet. For those wishing to sell an expensive London flat, Knight Frank's Lorna Vestey gets top marks.



Imagine how it would be if advertisements lived up to their promises. Simon Brooke on companies who are now selling truth

# Honesty: is it the best policy?

**I**magine going on holiday and the resort turning out to be just as described in the brochure. Imagine the joy of buying a product and it being as promised in the advert.

In these days of "amazing new" and "best ever" campaigns, consumers have learnt to take most advertisements with a pinch of salt. But a wave of honesty appears to be sweeping across some areas of the industry. Holidaymakers reading the latest Thomson brochure, for example, will find a whole new degree of candour in the descriptions of its resorts.

Thinking of visiting Montego Bay in Jamaica next year? "Be prepared for some aircraft noise," says Thomson. Why not try Turkey then? "The downside is that some places have grown so fast that maintenance has not kept pace." What about the Costa Brava? "Charm is not a word that springs to mind," it says.

Gloria Ward of Thomson accepts that providing customers with information not in the style of the usual sales pitch presupposes a high level of customer intelligence. Twenty-five years ago consumerism did not exist and simply going abroad was often excitement enough. But now that people know what they want and are more demanding."

Stefano Hatfield, editor of Campaign magazine, agrees that consumers are now "more sophisticated and even cynical", but points out that "some-

times it is a last resort for advertisers when they've lost credibility. The most interesting one was the Tories' Yes it hurt. Yes it worked' posters. It was brave but it backfired because people just remembered the 'Yes it hurt' bit."

The tobacco giant Philip Morris has just completed a similar but more hazardous strategy in the debate over health and passive smoking. Launched in early June, its "relative risk" adverts admit that "smoking is a risk factor for lung cancer and other diseases in smokers".

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Holidaymakers have to struggle to find a space for themselves and their umbrellas on Malia beach in Crete. Will travel brochures now describe exactly how crowded it is?

## NBC sets an Olympic broadcast record

John Goodbody on why television coverage of the Games did not quite qualify as sport

THERE IS little doubt about the most valuable gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics. It was won by the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), the US broadcaster of the Games.

The American network spent £350 million for the exclusive American rights to the event. It seemed expensive but it has proved to be a bargain.

Ratings were more than 25 per cent higher than in 1992. With advertising companies paying £480,000 for a 30-second advertising spot during peak viewing time, NBC expects to have made a profit of at least £50 million.

Advertisers are delighted with the coverage. Arnie Samsky of the BBDO agency, which represents such Olympic sponsors as Visa, Delta Airlines and Wrigley's Gum, says: "We could not be happier in terms of the ratings."

He is not the only one.

Over the past fortnight, NBC has dominated the battle with rival television channels. During the first week of the Games, its total number of viewers was nearly four times higher than CBS, its nearest competitor. This was the week that attracted nearly 100 million people to watch the final of the women's gymnastics team event.

Although the competition did not

finish until midnight, a record audience for the Summer Olympics watched the gymnastics that evening.

Among sports events, only the Super Bowl, which can top 120 million, has regularly got larger audiences.

For NBC, it was the critical moment. When Kerri Strug landed her vault on her damaged foot to help the United States to win the gold medal for the first time and simultaneously became

they do in Britain, but "plausibly" live sometimes up to some hours after they have actually taken place.

Sport is interspersed not only with advertisements but also with biographies of personalities, preferably with a sentimental story to tell. There is the recovery from illness, the murder of the wrestling buddy for which a millionaire enthusiast has been charged, the death of the parent, Mark Phillips, an official with the US equestrian team, gives the opportunity of an appearance not just of his former wife, the Princess Royal, but also the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Dick Ebersol, the head of NBC sports, denies he is trying to run sports. He says: "I have it better. I get to arrange how all these things are perceived in the world."

However, if you wanted to watch the Olympics as sport, you were better off staying in Britain.

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## MEDIA, SALES & MARKETING

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The successful applicant will be a graduate and have 8-10 years marketing experience, including above and below the line advertising (some of which should have been in the FMCG or leisure sector). You'll be IT literate and have some experience of international marketing.

Outstanding golf and leisure facilities ensure that you'll be able to play as hard as you work, with the gateways of Glasgow and Edinburgh less than an hour's drive away.

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APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO PETER LEADERER OBE, THE GLENEAGLES HOTEL, AUCHTERARDER, PERTHSHIRE, SCOTLAND. PH3 1NF. TEL: 01764 694401. FAX: 01764 694444. INTERNET ADDRESS: [HTTP://WWW.GLENEAGLES.COM](http://www.gleneagles.com)



#### Ambitious Sales Executives Telecommunications products

TCS is a growing US telecommunications company which provides value added services to the corporate sector. It has recently established a European operations centre in London and seeks up to two graduates with sales experience to help market its new interactive telephone product.

Applicants should be self-motivated and computer literate, and have strong presentation and interpersonal skills.

This is an exciting opportunity to join a multi-million pound industry in the rapidly evolving telecoms marketplace.

An attractive commission based salary offering unlimited earnings potential and significant opportunities for career progression will be offered to the right candidate(s). For further information please contact Matthew Fernandez on 0171 497 5678.

Experienced, articulate sales people needed for computer brokerage in Fulham. Experience of computers not essential. Computer literacy helpful. OTE £25K+. Tel: 0171 610 9911.

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prospectus shows you  
exactly how to become a  
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## GRADUATES

News Group Newspapers, publishers of The Sun and News of the World are seeking confident and articulate graduates to work within their classified advertising department in London.

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You will be mature, professional and enthusiastic, be able to communicate effectively over the telephone, be numerate and have basic keyboard skills. Working in a young, energetic team, you will generate revenue through cold calling, whilst also maintaining a regular client base.

News International offers an excellent package which includes BUPA, contributory pension, subsidised staff restaurant, gymnasium and an excellent bonus scheme.

If you are motivated by targets and deadlines and wish to pursue a long term career with Britain's most successful Newspaper Group, call:

Mandy McCready, Group Classified Sales Manager, News Group Newspapers Limited, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XJ.  
Tel: 0171 680 8230, Fax: 0171 782 7941.

**THE  
Sun** **NEWS OF  
THE  
WORLD**

## MARKETING

Exciting opportunities for young marketing professionals with a major new player in the £6bn domestic gas market.

This is an opportunity to make your name in a new, consumer oriented business. The company is a brand new enterprise, formed by two powerful multinationals and will enter the residential gas supply market, soon to be fully opened for competition. We are intent on creating a modern, marketing-led company which identifies and responds to the wants and needs of the consumer. The company aims to become Britain's leading independent gas marketer and the major competitor to the existing monopoly supplier.

We recognise that our ability to develop and promote offerings which respond to consumer wants and needs is crucial to success because of the undifferentiated nature of our core commodity. We intend to make extensive use of market research to identify and analyse customer preferences; and sophisticated competitor and pricing analysis and product development to devise product and service concepts to meet them.

The nature of our business means that our offerings must be promoted utilising highly targeted and cost effective marketing communications, with particular emphasis on direct marketing and direct response advertising.

We are seeking young and talented team players with skills and expertise in these key areas. Previous experience in attracting and retaining retail customers to a direct offering in a highly competitive market would be especially appropriate.

To be a successful candidate you must be of graduate calibre and have obtained at least 2 years marketing experience, either in a company, agency or consultancy. Most importantly you must be committed and flexible, and motivated by the opportunity to gain experience and early responsibility with a dynamic new company.

The company is based south west of London and offers a competitive pay and benefits package, including relocation assistance where appropriate.

To be considered, please write with full CV to: Andrew Dawson, SMCL Oil & Gas Limited, 2 Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BP. Tel: 0171-222 7733. Fax: 0171-222 3445.

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Our client is one of the City's largest and most successful financial markets executive search practices. As part of their growth strategy, they are seeking two additional associates to join the investment banking group. Following a structured training programme covering all aspects of executive search and an in-depth introduction to financial markets, the successful candidate will be placed alongside a Partner working within a small, specialist team. Those who demonstrate high levels of commitment, professionalism and entrepreneurial flair will follow an accelerated career path leading to opportunities both in the UK and abroad.

Our client has a preference for career-minded graduates in their 20's with a background in sales/marketing or financial markets.

For an initial confidential discussion please contact

Clare Blakeman on  
0171 242 4444 (0976 327738, 24 hours)  
Facsimile: 0171 405 6434

# THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7 1996

## NEWS

### Mother aborts twin before ban

■ An unmarried mother has had one of a pair of healthy twins aborted, it was disclosed last night, hours after anti-abortion campaigners won an injunction to halt the operation.

It was unclear when the termination was carried out, but Lord Winston, the test-tube baby pioneer who is close to several people involved, said he believed it was several weeks ago. The campaigners were prepared to offer the woman £45,000 to persuade her to keep both babies ..... Page 1

### Rock from Mars offers signs of life

■ The first evidence of extra-terrestrial life may have been detected by scientists from the US space agency, Nasa. In a meteorite that originated on Mars, they have found chemical evidence suggesting that simple forms of life must have existed on the planet at some time in the past ..... Page 1

### Plea to gendarme

The parents of murdered schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson urged the French police to redouble their efforts after DNA tests cleared the tramp who confessed to raping her ..... Page 1

### Ulster standoff

Northern Ireland faces the prospect of violent sectarian clashes this weekend after nationalists and Unionists failed to reach agreement over a loyalist parade in Londonderry ..... Page 1

### Ballot demand

Postal union leaders came under pressure to mount a national ballot on an Acas peace plan after some workers rejected strike action and demanded a resolution to the dispute ..... Page 2

### Norfolk find

The remains of an early Roman fort built to impose order on Boudicca and the marauding Iceni has been discovered in Norfolk ..... Page 3

### Murder over pigs

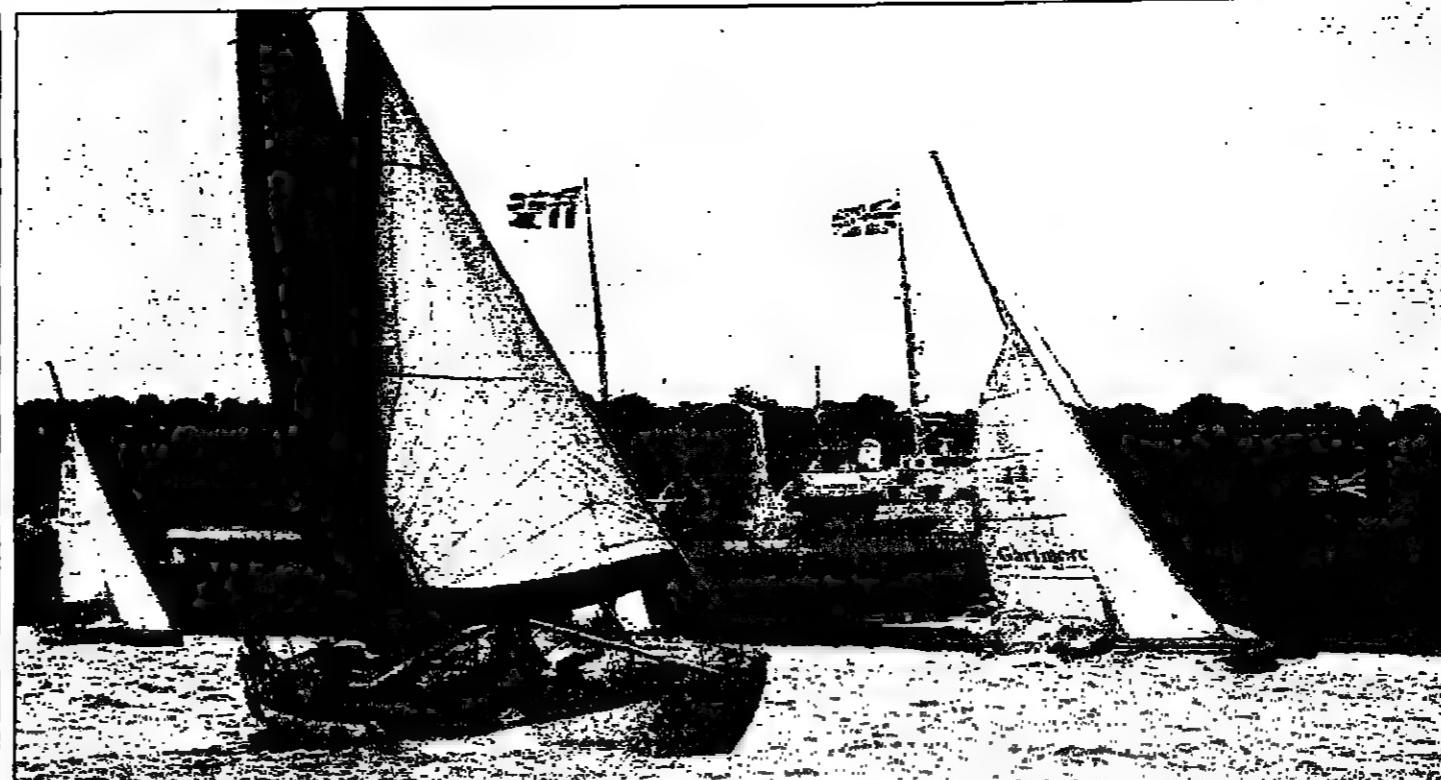
A man who went to the defence of a pair of pot-bellied pigs he kept in his garden was kicked to death by a gang threatening to burn them alive ..... Page 10

### Rantzen defended

The BBC leapt to Esther Rantzen's defence after she clashed on air with Dr Thomas Stuttaford, the *Times* columnist, over the illness known as ME ..... Page 5

### New 'Lolita' is too hot for Hollywood

■ Jeremy Irons, one of Britain's most respected exports to Hollywood, may never be seen by American audiences in his next film because it depicts him having sex with a 14-year-old girl. No one in Hollywood is willing to touch the intensely controversial re-make of Vladimir Nabokov's classic novel *Lolita* ..... Page 9



Yachts, of different classes, take up position in front of the Royal Yacht Britannia during racing at Cowes yesterday. Report, page 42

## BUSINESS

**Barclays:** The bank pleased the City with its half year results and made its third buy-back of shares from shareholders in the past year ..... Page 23

**Hays' mission:** Hays, the business services group, called off its bid for Christian Salvesen, the distribution group ..... Page 23

**BCI:** A High Court judgment cleared the way for nearly 38,000 UK creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International to receive their first payment ..... Page 23

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 Index rose 0.1 points to close at 3788.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.2 to 84.0 after a fall from \$1.5437 to \$1.5367 and from DM2.2865 to DM2.2814 ..... Page 26

## SPORT

**Football:** Alan Shearer, the England striker and the world's costliest player, arrived on Tyneside after completing his £15 million move to Newcastle United to the delight of thousands of excited supporters ..... Page 44

**Sailing:** It was a dramatic day on the Solent as a gale force wind ravaged the Skandia Life Cowes Week fleet ..... Page 42

**Cricket:** Peter Lever, the bowling coach to the England team, has resigned on the eve of the critical second Test match against Pakistan ..... Page 44

**Golf:** The winner in the US PGA, the last of the major championships of the season, is likely to emerge from an unheralded group of players ..... Page 41

**Arts anniversary:** With the approach of the Edinburgh Festival, Richard Morrison reflects on the glorious, and not so glorious events of the past 50 years ..... Page 31

**High notes:** As *Emmeline* opens at the Santa Fe Opera House in New Mexico, Tobias Picker's debut work is being hailed as the greatest American opera in years ..... Page 32

## ARTS

**Screen star:** Jeff Goldblum, full of charm expected from one of the biggest box-office draws in Hollywood, talks about his latest role in *Independence Day* ..... Page 30

**Art on the move:** Unable to expand any more, the growing Guggenheim Museum in New York is now spreading its wings to Spain, offering a 21st-century experience of art and architecture ..... Page 30

**Arts anniversary:** With the approach of the Edinburgh Festival, Richard Morrison reflects on the glorious, and not so glorious events of the past 50 years ..... Page 31

**High notes:** As *Emmeline* opens at the Santa Fe Opera House in New Mexico, Tobias Picker's debut work is being hailed as the greatest American opera in years ..... Page 32

## FEATURES

**Leave it alone:** An international conference on Antarctica is being held. The continent must be preserved from all commercial interests ..... Page 13

**Private enterprise:** Foiled by the postal strikes, Magnus Linklater tries to deliver his own letters but is foiled by Edinburgh's new traffic system ..... Page 13

## FASHION

**Raid on the locker room:** Team sports top (preferably zipped and hooded) with a slinky skirt, add American moccasins and scraped-back hair, and relax for the rest of the summer ..... Page 12

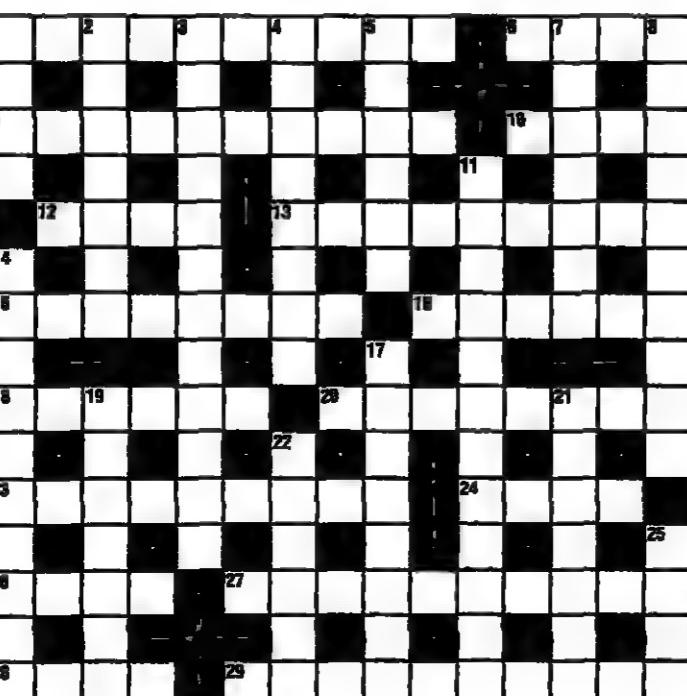
## HOMES

**Super salesman:** When it comes to selling your house, you want results. Rachel Kelly names the men and women regarded as the best agents in the property business ..... Page 19

## THE PAPERS

**Bob Dole's tax-cut plan is a politically bold if irresponsible ploy to resurrect his campaign. The 15 per cent across-the-board tax cut is big enough to win voters' attention and excite their greed. Mr Dole is hoping to put some spark in his campaign and cast President Clinton as a guardian of the Government programme. The Republicans have yet to dismantle** — The New York Times

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,240



### ACROSS

- 24 Time to return to a region (4).
- 26 Women prepared to follow orders (4).
- 27 Bound to give others credit for reform (10).
- 28 Use deception to get university place (4).
- 29 Can-opener? (6,4).
- 30 Find this big lake up country (4).
- 32 Surround a number breaking into French club (7).
- 33 Get criminal record for this? (7,5).
- 34 Gallery aims to get unexpected windfalls (8).
- 35 Time for redemption, states article on church (6).
- 37 God of love takes hold of friend — capital (7).
- 38 Mineral water for Londoners (10).
- 39 All of a tinge, possibly, from such a beating (12).
- 40 Give rise to chag — that's not very common (10).
- 41 Copies I revise at times (8).
- 42 Aggressive action taken by those insulted (7).
- 43 Apathy I retain, however moved (7).
- 44 Rush job? (6).
- 45 A boundary gives us the lead (4).

### Solution to Puzzle No 20,239

**KNAVE OF HEARTS**  
N S V A A O M B  
I N S P E C T O R S  
C E N H N E E S T  
K E T C H O V E N  
B R A T I N G S  
R A T I N G S  
T A P E R E R  
B R D I O F  
O N A G E R I S  
S I G N O R I  
G N D T E L  
K I S S N E S T  
C O M I N G  
E F N T E I N  
R H O N E S  
S R W O E I R E  
M I S U N D E R S T O O D

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• 24 days, 23 nights, £1,350 per person.  
• Call 0171-733 5555

Times Two Crossword, page 44

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

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Dorset, Hampshire & IOW 703  
Devon & Cornwall 704  
West Country, Avon & Somerset 705  
Beds, Bucks, Oxon 706  
Beds, Herts & Essex 707  
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 708  
Hants, Wilts & Glos 709  
Shropshire, Herefs & Warks 710  
Central Midlands 711  
West Midlands 712  
West Lancs & Merseyside 713  
Dyfed & Powys 714  
Gwynedd & Chwyd 715  
Wales 716  
W & S Yorks & Dales 717  
N & E England 718  
Cumbria & Lake District 719  
W & Central Scotland 720  
Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders 721  
Central Scotland 722  
Scotland & E Highlands 723  
N & S Scotland 724  
Orkney & Shetland 725  
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Edinburgh & Central Scotland 732  
Regional AA offices 733  
AA London City centre 734  
AA London & Southern motorways 735  
AA North & Western motorways 736  
AA Scotland 737  
AA Northern England 738  
AA North East England 739  
AA North Scotland 740  
AA North Ireland 741  
AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheapest rate), and 49p per minute at all other times

## HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday. Highest day temp: Coldest: Norfolk 25.7°C; lowest day temp: Lowest: 6°C. Yesterday 116.2°C highest rainfall: Mercia 10.5mm. Yesterday 176.1°C highest sunshine: Guernsey 12.9°C.

## FORECAST

■ **General:** Wales, along with south and southwest England, will be rather cloudy with the odd light shower, but also a few bright or sunny intervals. The remainder of England will be mostly cloudy with rain, although it should slowly become drier from the west. Northern Ireland and western Scotland will be rather cloudy, perhaps with the odd spot of rain. The rest of Scotland will be grey and wet, but the heavier rain should peter out from the West. Most places will be cool and breezy.

■ **Isle of Man, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** rather cloudy, perhaps the odd spot of rain. Wind mainly northwesterly light. Max 17°C (63°F).

■ **E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, Moray Firth:** cloudy with rain slowly petering out. Wind mainly north or northwest fresh, locally strong at first. Cool. Max 15°C (59°F).

■ **London, SE England, Central S England:** mostly dry, bright or sunny spells developing. Wind west light or moderate, occasionally fresh at first. Max 21°C (70°F).

■ **E Anglia, E Midlands, W Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Central N England, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** occasional rain drying out from the west and becoming brighter. Wind northwards. Wind mainly east moderate or fresh. Max 14°C (57°F).

■ **Outlook:** rain, mainly in the North. Sunny intervals mostly in the South.

## AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: B = bright, C = cloudy, D = drizzle, Dm = dust storm, Dn = dust, F = fog, G = gale, H = hail, M = mist, R = rain, S = shower, Sl = sleet, Sn = snow, St = storm, T = thunder, W = wind, X = weather not available, Z =izzle. AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheapest rate), and 49p per minute at all other times

Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Abberdeen	11	63	5
Aberystwyth	17	63	1
Aspeton	0.1	0.13	11
Bath	1.1	17	11
Belfast	0.43	12	5
Birmingham	3.2	0.11	23
Bognor Regis	0.29	1.1	19
Bristol	6.2	0.03	20
Buxton	2.3	0.04	17
Camborne	1.9	0.06	15
Colwyn Bay	0.25	17	5
Cromer	6.3	0.06	17
Dartmouth	7.5	0.01	16
Eastbourne	7.6	0.01	16
Edinburgh	0.07	17	13
Falmouth	2.2	0.16	24
Faversham	0.35	14	5
Folkestone	0.2	17	5
Glasgow	0.2	17	11
Gosport	0.2	17	11
Guildford	0.2	17	11
Hastings	7.5	0.01	20
Harrow	1.1	0.01	20
Holyhead	8.2	0.01	18
Hove	0.2	17	11
Hunstanton	0.2	17	11
Jersey	0.8	0.01	18
Kirkcudbright	1.2	0.01	18
Lancaster	0.2	17	11
Liverpool	0.2	17	11
London	0.2	17	11
Lydney	0.2	17	11
Madison	0.2	17	11
Malvern	0.2	17	11
Market Drayton	0.2	17	11
Merthyr Tydfil	0.2	17	11
Midlands	0.2	17	11
Monkwearmouth	0.2	17	11
Mossmoraine	0.2	17	11
Nottingham	0.2	17	11
Oban	0.2	17	11
Oxford	0.2	17	11
Paisley	0.2	17	11
Plymouth	0.2	17	11
Portsmouth	0.2	17	11
Princetown	0.2	17	11
Ramsgate	0.2	17	11
Rhyl	0.2	17	11
Rosemarkie	0.2	17	11
Roxburgh	0.2	17	11
Runcorn	0.2	17	11
Rushmore	0.2	17	11
Ryde	0.2	17	11
Scarborough	0.2	17	11
Sheffield	0.2	17	11
St Ives	0.2	17	11
Stornoway	0.2	17	11
Swindon	0.2	17	11
Tarporley	0.2	17	11
Tenby	0.2	17	11
Torquay	0.2		



## Fraud cuts profits at Appleyard

Fraudulent accounting and reduced margins at Appleyard, the car dealer, brought about a 7 per cent fall to £4.6 million in first-half pre-tax profits.

John Atkin, Appleyard's finance director, said the group has still to decide whether to sue the auditors who failed to pick up the doctored results in 1994 and 1995. An interim dividend of 3.1p will be paid on September 19.

**Home growth**

Ashbourne is to become the UK's third largest nursing home operator after agreeing to buy nine homes for £14.1 million, adding a further 487 beds to its 2,663. Its shares rose 2p to 140p yesterday.

### MGF winner

Demand for Rover's new MGF sports car has put Mayflower, which makes its body shell, ahead of City expectations. First-half pre-tax profits increased by 62 per cent to £10.2 million. A dividend of 0.75p (0.67p) will be paid on November 15.

### Lauda falls

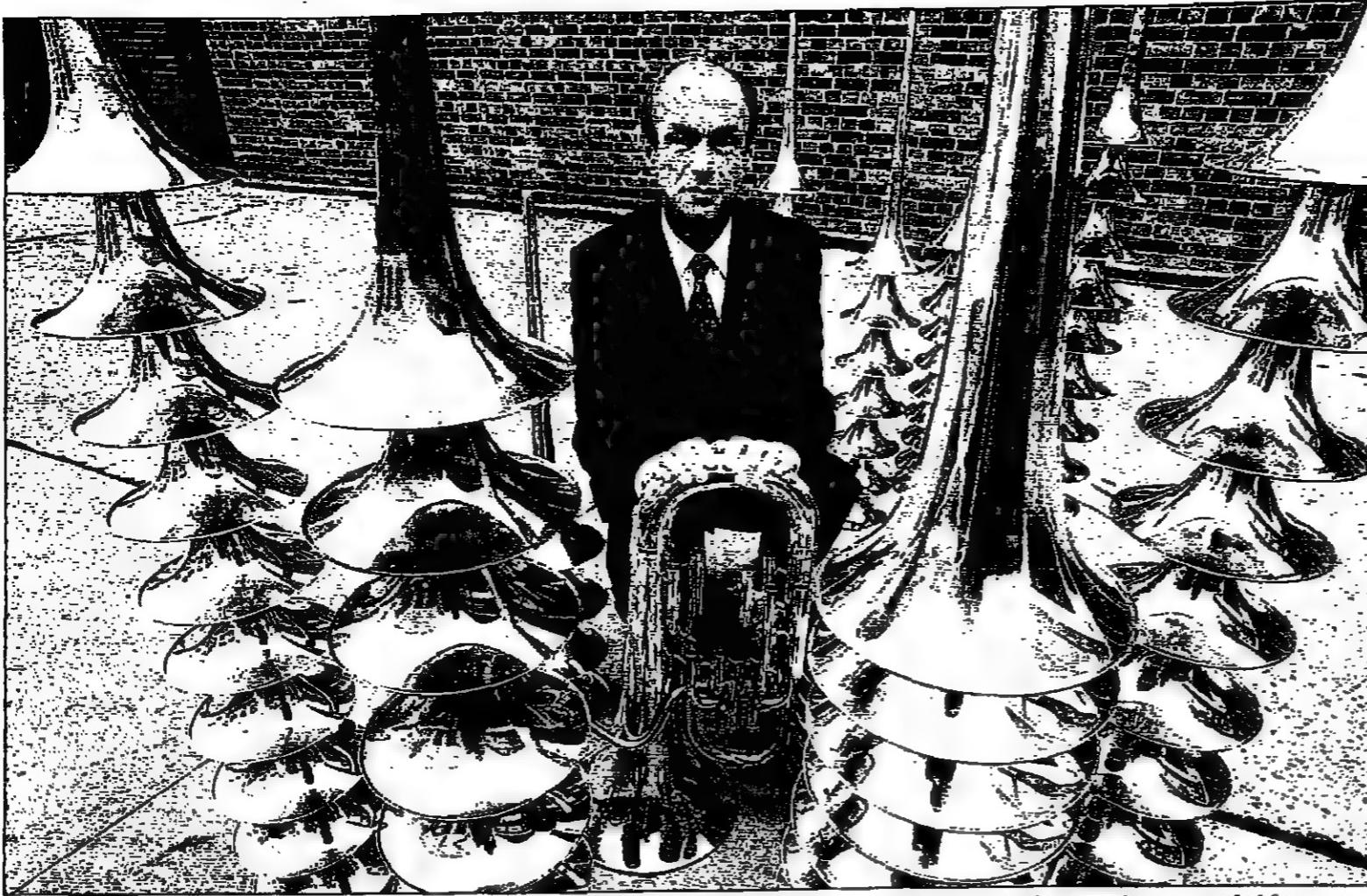
Lauda Air, the Austrian airline, yesterday reported increased pre-tax losses for the first half of 165.6 million schillings (£10.3 million), up from 74 million a year earlier.

### Cisco buys

Cisco Systems, the leading US computer network group, is to buy Nashua Networks for shares worth \$100 million for its switching technology, used to connect desktop computers to mainframes.

### M-S sells

Menvier-Swain, the electrical equipment company, has sold the US arm of Scantronic, the security alarm business, for £2.4 million.



Richard Holland, chief executive of Boosey and Hawkes, saw the company's shares rise 53p to close at 718p as analysts upgraded forecasts

# SIB sets tougher rules for custody of assets

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE City's most senior watchdog yesterday unveiled new safeguards to protect more than £800 billion worth of assets held on behalf of investors.

In future, under the tough new rules on the custody of assets, published by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), investors who lose money through fraud or theft, or even straightforward carelessness, will now be covered by the official Investors Compensation Scheme.

According to the SIB, the top ten custodian banks in the United Kingdom between them hold domestic assets worth £700 billion.

Increasingly fund managers and others who look after investments have appointed third parties to look after the administration and paperwork. Until now, however, the safe custody of these investments and the related paperwork have not come directly under the umbrella of the Financial Services Act.

The new SIB custody standards, which were introduced partly in response to the Maxwell pension fund losses and more recently the £830 million Barings crash, set out in clear detail the responsibilities of custodians. In turn the fund managers who appoint third-party administrators

will also be responsible for ensuring that the custodians are authorised to conduct such business.

Safe-deposit boxes containing so-called non-investments such as diamonds, cash, property deeds or gold will not be covered by the SIB rules.

The SIB said yesterday that there would also be "identification and periodic checking of customers' investments".

The watchdog, which will have the new rules in place by early next year after an amendment to the Financial Services Act has been put through Parliament, said the standards had been "fine-tuned" to take account of the

introduction of Crest, the new electronic share settlement system.

Boosey and Hawkes, the musical instrument manufacturer, yesterday bought Rico International, a trade maker in the US, for £18 million.

The deal met with City approval and shares in the company rose 53p to close at 718p as analysts upgraded profit forecasts.

Rico, which is based in California, has about 75 per cent of the US and 50 per cent of the world reed market. It owns and operates its own cane plantations in France, Argentina and California. Last year, it reported profits of £1.72 million.

Boosey said that the deal would be immediately earnings enhancing. Mr Richard Holland, chief executive, said the long-term aim was to expand Rico operations in Europe and the Far East using Boosey's existing distribution network.

Boosey is paying a cash sum for Rico, with the maximum price of £17.9 million dependent on Rico meeting a pre-tax profit target of £1.8 million for the year to the end of June. Boosey's gearing will rise to 40 per cent after the acquisition.

Boosey is the third largest musical instrument maker in the world. It also has a strong music publishing arm, owning the rights to many twentieth century composers. Carl Fischer, the US publishing company, owns almost 50 per cent of Boosey.

## Boosey buy hits right note in the City

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

MEGGITT, the engineering group, has outstripped tough competition to win the multi-million pound contract to provide 16,000 sets of body armour to the Metropolitan Police.

The deal, said to be worth at least £4 million, comes after two years of detailed design work to come up with a safety vest that will be worn by police across the UK.

Thirty companies bid for the contract, but Meggitt's design proved to be the lightest, most comfortable, and safest. Made from a composite material, Meggitt refuses to disclose the ingredient that makes the armour both bullet and stab-proof.

The vest, which weighs 4lb, will be available in more than 60 different sizes, to fit neatly underneath current uniforms. The armour fits both male and female body shapes. Meggitt said: "It's just like buying an off-the-peg suit from M&S — you find the size that fits you."

In 12 years, Meggitt, which

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Eric Lewis, managing director of Meggitt Aerospace Components, the sole UK supplier to the Ariane space programme, is confident that the company has found the "key" to future success.

## Meggitt wins body armour battle

BY MORAG PRESTON



Dressed for safer policing

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Barclays closures seen as inevitable  Caveat emptor the only rule  Uncertainties for South West Water

EMOTIONS will always run high when a bank closes a local branch, no matter how long since the account holders last walked through the door. This is why the main clearing banks tend to send separate messages to the City and to outside observers.

Barclays is the latest to show the benefits in profits terms of disposing of those chunks of the network the banks believe have been superseded by telephone banking. Yet to outsiders Barclays murmurs that closures so far have been limited to a few declining suburban branches, and no more are expected.

The City believes more will have to go, a point rubbed in by Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds TSB. More outspoken, as ever, than the rest, he kicked off the interim reporting season from the banks this year with a warning to this effect.

The disappearance of so many branches across the nation is as sad, and as inevitable, as the closure of all those thousands of greengrocers, butchers and hardware stores put out of business by the grocery chains and DIY sheds. But the banks themselves clearly believe there is no profit to be derived from keeping them open. If one thought it could steal a march on its rivals by keeping its network intact, by poaching their account holders or ensuring greater loy-

alty among its own, that bank would promptly rebrand itself the Friendly Bank, or whatever other nonsense the marketing team came up with, and do so.

Their duty to shareholders is to shut where they can, and take the flak from unions and customers. They have no more moral duty to stay open than those small greengrocers should be forced to drive their families into penury by continuing to compete against J Sainsbury.

Barclays has shut more than 500 branches over the past 15 years. The bank is more interested these days in its new online banking service via the Internet, however technophobes may shudder, and its communications satellite perched above the Indian Ocean. Operating profits from personal banking grew by just 3 per cent in the first half and contributed less than 30 per cent of all profits after bad debt, down 10 percentage points since last time. The talk yesterday was more about the need for the investment banking side, BZW, to take risks than about the further closures. In the City, that debate is now over.

The banking sector is splitting down the middle, a point explicitly made by the former building societies such as the Halifax and the Alliance & Leicester who arrive next year. They want the stock market to recognise this with a distinction between themselves and the Lloyds TSB as retail banks offering a range of personal financial services and the truly international players such as HSBC, owner of the Midland, and Barclays.

These will always want a presence on the high street, but their smaller brethren will take an increasing share of the country's domestic banking needs.

#### Hammering home the old lesson

YOU pay your money and you take your choice, whether you are investing in a company 40 per cent owned by one family shareholder or a football club that does not enjoy the benefits of a stock market quote. This old lesson can be learnt yet again from the examples of Christian Salvesen and West Ham United.

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Salvesen is the more straightforward case, being covered by the full rigour of the listing rules. The company is 40 per cent owned by the Salvesen brood, the individual family members who are shareholders and have a say in the running of the company numbering 200 or more.

This is an insuperable obstacle to any hostile bidder, as Ronnie Frost of Hays Group has just discovered. Mr Frost harbours a strong desire to see the company he created in the FTSE 100 index, and the purchase of Salvesen, the biggest and most obvious target in industrial services, should have done the trick. Hays's willingness to do a deal was forced out of the company a fortnight ago after rumours

spread. Mr Frost had hoped to tempt away family members who had become disenchanted with the slow progress at Salvesen, whose management has had to contend with the dead hand of that family block holding.

These permutations, including

clubs have never been amenable to the normal rules of investment, no matter what fortunes have been made on a handful.

#### Westward ho-hum for water bidders

WESSEX and Severn Trent are both vying for the hand of South West Water. Yet SWW shares, at 710p, are way behind the £10.53 at which Southern trades on Scottish Power's bid, let alone Northumbrian's take-out. Water bids are not like other bids. No price is named until a compulsory inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and haggling begins.

Things also have a way of going wrong for South West. Yesterday, if faced county court charges that seek to blame an SWW treatment works for an outbreak of cryptosporidium that made 500 customers ill a year ago and led to thousands boiling water for four weeks, Severn Trent has just been fined £175,000 for killing 35,000 Welsh fish. But dead fish cannot sue.

At SWW's request, the case

was adjourned until September 17. It should therefore make headlines just in time for the MMC report on both putative bids, which is due to go to the President of the Board of Trade on September 27. He will then decide if one or both suitors can negotiate customer price cuts with Ofwat and mount a real bid.

These permutations, including the court case and Ofwat's favours, which are unlikely to embrace Severn Trent, make the outcome as uncertain as supplies have sometimes been. No wonder the City is cautious.

#### In to lunch

THERE is never a shortage of silly and spurious surveys berating one social evil or another. But the latest takes a serious turn and trivialises it. To many people, it is claimed, eat lunch at their desks, not at all. The "cost" to business — there is always a cost quoted, however daft the methodology used to calculate it — is £32 million, and there is the usual reference to people's sex lives suffering to catch the eye of the press. Many office staff are indeed working too hard, and many more are not working at all. It is the desire of the former not to slip into the latter category that keeps them munching away at their desks.

## Agrochemicals help Zeneca's 21% advance

By ERIC REGULY

ZENECA, the pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals group, has reported sharply higher earnings but has given warning that the cost of launching new products will continue to put pressure on profit margins.

The company also dismissed speculation that it is in merger talks and said that it intended to pursue an independent course. Sir David Barnes, the chief executive, said: "We have very strong organic growth prospects ahead of us ... All these merger rumours are irritating, at times verging on the irresponsible."

The outlook for profit margins and Sir David's insistence that no takeover deal is in prospect pushed Zeneca

shares down by 20p, to £14.51. Rumours of a takeover or a merger have sent the shares as high as £14.74 this year, against their low of £10.90.

Zeneca reported pre-tax profits of £610 million, or 42.5p a share, in the half year to June 30, up 21 per cent from the £504 million, or 35.5p a share, earned in the same period last year. Turnover rose by 16 per cent, to £2.94 billion. The interim dividend, due on November 7, rises by 11 per cent, to 12.5p.

The profits were at the top end of analysts' forecasts, which ranged from £575 million to £610 million.

Sir David said that the earnings increase was due to strong volume growth from both established and new

drugs, and a combination of volume growth and price rises in the large agrochemicals division. Operating profits from agrochemicals — herbicides, pesticides and fungicides — rose by 22 per cent, to £205 million, on sales of £1.02 billion, up by 17 per cent.

Agrochemicals are performing well because they have better scope for price increases. Profits from pharmaceuticals, by contrast, are almost entirely dependent on extra sales because of flat or declining health care budgets around the world. Zeneca was unable to raise its drug prices in any major market except Italy. In Japan, they fell by 11 per cent, including effects of exchange rates.

The development and

launch costs of new products reduced operating profit margins in the pharmaceuticals division from 33.3 per cent to 31.7 per cent. John Mayo, the finance director, said that the forthcoming launches of products such as Accolate, an asthma treatment, and Kadian, an anti-cancer drug, would boost costs in the second half.

As a result, Mr Mayo expects the division to finish the year with a 30 per cent profit margin.

"We are happy to live with this temporary reduction in margin to ensure the quickest possible development, launch and roll-out of our new products," he said.

Tempus, page 26

## Sainsbury's £39m deal lifts stake in Giant Food

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

J SAINSBURY has spent \$62 million (£39.7 million) on a further two million shares in Giant Food, bought from the estate of the US food retailer's late co-founder, Israel Cohen.

The investment, which the companies said was to help with Israel Cohen's executors' tax planning, revived speculation that Sainsbury has its eye on eventually taking full control of Giant Food.

"It is a statement of intent," one analyst said. Such a deal would cost Sainsbury, which bought its initial stake in 1994, well over £1 billion. A spokeswoman for Sainsbury said that the company would not comment on its plans.

The purchase of the non-voting stock lifts Sainsbury's stake in the total equity of Giant Food from 16.7 per cent to 19.9 per cent. Its stake in the voting shares remains at 50 per cent.

Mr Cohen, who died in November last year, transferred his 50 per cent holding in Giant Food to the I224 Corporation. According to a statement from the executors yesterday, the corporation cannot sell its voting stock unless each holder of non-voting stock is offered the same price. This means that any bidder for the company cannot take control by buying only voting shares.

## Cordiant's £15.5m beats expectations

By JASON NISST

CORDIANT, the advertising group in the process of hauling itself out of trouble, yesterday revealed it owns or leases 100,000 sq ft of office space it does not need.

The company set aside another £8.2 million of provisions to cover the cost of moving out of one floor of its New York office complex at 375 Hudson Street. In its figures for the six months to the June 30, this comes on top of more than £120 million of provisions set aside to deal with the group's under-utilised and over-priced offices.

These combined to leave the group with pre-tax profits of £15.5 million, compared with a loss of £29.6 million, and above the City's expectations.

Earnings per share were 2p (12.9p loss), and, although there is no dividend, Mr Seelert promised one would be paid at the end of this year.

Lorna Tilbian, media analyst at Panmure Gordon, the broker, is predicting profits of £41 million for the year.

Tempus, page 26

## BP increases dividend 18%

By CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH Petroleum has raised its quarterly dividend 18 per cent to 5p per share after a record half year in which profits rose 23 per cent to £1.28 billion.

Sir David Simon, chairman, said: "It is the fourth year in a rolling quarterly period that we have achieved continuous improvement. We have the option and resources of delivering sustained growth."

BP's exploration and production business produced 5 per cent more oil and gas in the first half, with prices averaging \$19 per barrel.

The results reflected \$300 million of performance improvements. John Browne, chief executive, said that BP had developments coming on stream in Britain and the Gulf of Mexico that would deliver a further 350,000 barrels per day, while new opportunities identified in Alaska, the Gulf

of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, West Africa and Australia could add a further 800,000 barrels.

BP said that it had reached its dividend target of paying out 50 per cent of earnings taking into account the oil price cycle. Second-quarter profit before exceptional items was £648 million, compared with £519 million in 1995. Better margins helped to raise half-year refining and marketing profits from £176 million to £365 million in the second half, but chemicals fell from £502 million to £242 million.

BP suffered a write-off of £50 million on the sale of an office building in Cleveland, Ohio. BP's net debt has fallen further to \$6.7 billion after a net cash inflow in the second quarter of £223 million.

Tempus, page 26

## Millennium goes on the hunt for acquisitions

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MILLENNIUM and Copthorne, the hotel company, said yesterday that it was looking for acquisitions, although it would not be entering the bidding war for Forte assets being sold by Granada.

Edouard Gremlich, chief executive, said that the company was actively looking at opportunities in the UK, continental Europe and North America. The company, which owns the Gloucester and Chelsea hotels in London, has £24 million in cash and access to credit to help to finance expansion.

Millennium unveiled its first results since floating in April with half-year profits rising 53 per cent to £15 million. Turnover rose 11 per cent to £84 million, while yield per available room improved 10 per cent and room rates increased 12 per cent to £76.63.

Mr Gremlich said that current trading was healthy, adding that the company's performance in July was ahead of last year.

The improvement followed a strong trading performance from Millennium's London hotels, where occupancy rates averaged 78.9 per cent even though three of four hotels have been undergoing refurbishment. Occupancy rates in New York also improved to 75 per cent. But the performance in Europe continued to suffer, with the combined occupancy level falling nearly 10 points to 58.5 per cent.

A dividend of 7.5p is payable on September 20.



Edouard Gremlich, left, and David Cook, finance chief

**making  
pointless  
purchases"**

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PROPOSALS for a share buy-back in the Kleinwort European Privatisation Trust (Kepit) were suspended yesterday while the board considered bids from rival fund managers to reorganise the trust.

Shane Ross, chairman of the £500 million trust's independent board, told an extraordinary meeting of shareholders that Kepit had received seven approaches to restructure the fund.

The EGM had originally been called to allow shareholders to approve the board's plans to buy-back 60 per cent of shares.

The buy-back scheme had been intended to reduce the discount at which the trust's shares had been trading since its launch in 1994. The decision to adjourn the EGM was a foregone conclusion because proxy votes from financial institutions overwhelmingly backed the board's call for more time to consider its options.

Mr Ross's announcement prompted speculation that some of the City's biggest names are in discussions with Kepit. Those considered capable of reorganising a trust of Kepit's size include Fleming, Foreign & Colonial, Hoare Govett, Ivory & Sims, Fidelity, and M&G. Mercury Asso-

American Express Services Europe Limited, Reg. Office, Portland House, 1 Stag Place, London SW1E 5HZ, Reg. No. 103113.

A12

STOCK MARKET



OLIVER AUGUST

# Index moves a fraction as traders become cautious

APART from a few pockets of interest equities remained subdued yesterday. The FTSE 100 index finished 0.1 of a point above the previous day's closing at 3788.4.

Traders were extremely cautious ahead of tomorrow's Bank of England quarterly inflation report, which is expected to warn the Government against further rate cuts if it is to meet its inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less.

Overall movement was dominated by the banking sector. Most major banks were either among the biggest gainers or biggest losers. Lloyds TSB and Bank of Scotland were among the top three of FTSE 100 movers and HSBC was in the bottom three.

Barclays easily saw the most action, rising by 3.25 per cent from 845p to 872.1p. The group was also the most widely traded FTSE 100 share, with a volume of 123 million changing hands, well ahead of the 17 million traded in BT.

The Barclays trading bonanza followed an announcement by the bank that it would buy back up to 55 million shares at 85p to "help shareholders cash in on a 15 per cent increase in half-year profits."

The £470 million buy-back and a 21 per cent increase in the interim dividend created an enthusiastic rally and BZW, who conducted the buy-back, had filled their quota of 3.5 per cent of company shares by lunchtime.

Analysts said they were surprised by the market's response to Barclays' move rather than by the cash-rich group's buy-back, the third in a year. A £180 million repurchase last August was followed by another of £306 million in February.

Yesterday's move, which rewards shareholders by increasing the value of the stock remaining in the market, came as the group announced it had made an interim profit of £1.3 billion. The pre-tax profit for the six months to June 30 compares with the £1.2 billion it made in the first half of 1995. Investors will receive a dividend of 11.5p a share, up from 9.5p. Earnings per share rose by 29 per cent from 42.8p to 53.5p.

Lloyds TSB and Bank of Scotland both benefited from the banking wave created by Barclays. Lloyds TSB rose 10p to 352p and Bank of



Costain rose 4p despite Newbury bypass protests

Scotland was up 7.1p to 247p. The major banking loser — at least on paper — was HSBC, whose shares rose strongly on Monday after better than expected interim profits. Large-scale profit-taking yesterday reversed this trend, the shares falling from 1,164p to 1,138p.

The construction sector also came into focus. Hopes that a firm recovery is under way

per cent. Construction companies like Britannia, Crest and Higgs & Hill all remained unchanged, while Brandon Hire rose from 123p to 126. Market sentiment that a firm recovery is yet to arrive was supported by a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors survey showing second-quarter activity is down on the same period last year, but that

the drags had come

in at the top of their forecast range of £575 million to £610 million. "These are very good figures on the face of it," said one analyst.

The shares soon nose-dived, market-makers downgrading Zeneca because of the good results. "The results are so good that people think the company is so strong that a bid is unlikely," one analyst was full of praise.

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**THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE**

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7 1996

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

1996 High Low Last	Price Bid Offer Change	% +/-	Vol. Value
418 Allied Distillers	418 416 418 0	-2	125
500 British Distillers	500 498 500 0	-2	125
520 Burgh House	520 518 520 0	-2	125
471 Braendgate	471 469 471 0	-2	125
515 Cheltenham & Gloucester	515 513 515 0	-2	125
550 Midland Distillers	550 548 550 0	-2	125
555 M&S	555 553 555 0	-2	125
560 Molson Coors	560 558 560 0	-2	125
565 Old Pulteney	565 563 565 0	-2	125
570 Pernod Ricard	570 568 570 0	-2	125
575 Pernod-Saint-Gobain	575 573 575 0	-2	125
580 Pernod-Saint-Gobain A	580 578 580 0	-2	125
585 Pernod-Saint-Gobain B	585 583 585 0	-2	125
590 Pernod-Saint-Gobain C	590 588 590 0	-2	125
595 Pernod-Saint-Gobain D	595 593 595 0	-2	125
600 Pernod-Saint-Gobain E	600 598 600 0	-2	125
605 Pernod-Saint-Gobain F	605 603 605 0	-2	125
610 Pernod-Saint-Gobain G	610 608 610 0	-2	125
615 Pernod-Saint-Gobain H	615 613 615 0	-2	125
620 Pernod-Saint-Gobain I	620 618 620 0	-2	125
625 Pernod-Saint-Gobain J	625 623 625 0	-2	125
630 Pernod-Saint-Gobain K	630 628 630 0	-2	125
635 Pernod-Saint-Gobain L	635 633 635 0	-2	125
640 Pernod-Saint-Gobain M	640 638 640 0	-2	125
645 Pernod-Saint-Gobain N	645 643 645 0	-2	125
650 Pernod-Saint-Gobain O	650 648 650 0	-2	125
655 Pernod-Saint-Gobain P	655 653 655 0	-2	125
660 Pernod-Saint-Gobain Q	660 658 660 0	-2	125
665 Pernod-Saint-Gobain R	665 663 665 0	-2	125
670 Pernod-Saint-Gobain S	670 668 670 0	-2	125
675 Pernod-Saint-Gobain T	675 673 675 0	-2	125
680 Pernod-Saint-Gobain U	680 678 680 0	-2	125
685 Pernod-Saint-Gobain V	685 683 685 0	-2	125
690 Pernod-Saint-Gobain W	690 688 690 0	-2	125
695 Pernod-Saint-Gobain X	695 693 695 0	-2	125
700 Pernod-Saint-Gobain Y	700 698 700 0	-2	125
705 Pernod-Saint-Gobain Z	705 703 705 0	-2	125
710 Pernod-Saint-Gobain AA	710 708 710 0	-2	125
715 Pernod-Saint-Gobain BB	715 713 715 0	-2	125
720 Pernod-Saint-Gobain CC	720 718 720 0	-2	125
725 Pernod-Saint-Gobain DD	725 723 725 0	-2	125
730 Pernod-Saint-Gobain EE	730 728 730 0	-2	125
735 Pernod-Saint-Gobain FF	735 733 735 0	-2	125
740 Pernod-Saint-Gobain GG	740 738 740 0	-2	125
745 Pernod-Saint-Gobain HH	745 743 745 0	-2	125
750 Pernod-Saint-Gobain II	750 748 750 0	-2	125
755 Pernod-Saint-Gobain JJ	755 753 755 0	-2	125
760 Pernod-Saint-Gobain KK	760 758 760 0	-2	125
765 Pernod-Saint-Gobain LL	765 763 765 0	-2	125
770 Pernod-Saint-Gobain MM	770 768 770 0	-2	125
775 Pernod-Saint-Gobain NN	775 773 775 0	-2	125
780 Pernod-Saint-Gobain OO	780 778 780 0	-2	125
785 Pernod-Saint-Gobain PP	785 783 785 0	-2	125
790 Pernod-Saint-Gobain QQ	790 788 790 0	-2	125
795 Pernod-Saint-Gobain RR	795 793 795 0	-2	125
800 Pernod-Saint-Gobain SS	800 798 800 0	-2	125
805 Pernod-Saint-Gobain TT	805 803 805 0	-2	125
810 Pernod-Saint-Gobain UU	810 808 810 0	-2	125
815 Pernod-Saint-Gobain VV	815 810 815 0	-2	125
820 Pernod-Saint-Gobain WW	820 815 820 0	-2	125
825 Pernod-Saint-Gobain XX	825 820 825 0	-2	125
830 Pernod-Saint-Gobain YY	830 825 830 0	-2	125
835 Pernod-Saint-Gobain ZZ	835 830 835 0	-2	125
840 Pernod-Saint-Gobain AAA	840 835 840 0	-2	125
845 Pernod-Saint-Gobain BBB	845 840 845 0	-2	125
850 Pernod-Saint-Gobain CCC	850 845 850 0	-2	125
855 Pernod-Saint-Gobain DDD	855 850 855 0	-2	125
860 Pernod-Saint-Gobain EEE	860 855 860 0	-2	125
865 Pernod-Saint-Gobain FFF	865 860 865 0	-2	125
870 Pernod-Saint-Gobain GGG	870 865 870 0	-2	125
875 Pernod-Saint-Gobain HHH	875 870 875 0	-2	125
880 Pernod-Saint-Gobain III	880 875 880 0	-2	125
885 Pernod-Saint-Gobain JJJ	885 880 885 0	-2	125
890 Pernod-Saint-Gobain KKJ	890 885 890 0	-2	125
895 Pernod-Saint-Gobain LLJ	895 890 895 0	-2	125
900 Pernod-Saint-Gobain MMJ	900 895 900 0	-2	125
905 Pernod-Saint-Gobain NNJ	905 900 905 0	-2	125
910 Pernod-Saint-Gobain OJJ	910 905 910 0	-2	125
915 Pernod-Saint-Gobain PJJ	915 910 915 0	-2	125
920 Pernod-Saint-Gobain QJJ	920 915 920 0	-2	125
925 Pernod-Saint-Gobain RJJ	925 920 925 0	-2	125
930 Pernod-Saint-Gobain SJJ	930 925 930 0	-2	125
935 Pernod-Saint-Gobain TJJ	935 930 935 0	-2	125
940 Pernod-Saint-Gobain UJJ	940 935 940 0	-2	125
945 Pernod-Saint-Gobain VJJ	945 940 945 0	-2	125
950 Pernod-Saint-Gobain WJJ	950 945 950 0	-2	125
955 Pernod-Saint-Gobain XJJ	955 950 955 0	-2	125
960 Pernod-Saint-Gobain YJJ	960 955 960 0	-2	125
965 Pernod-Saint-Gobain ZJJ	965 960 965 0	-2	125
970 Pernod-Saint-Gobain AAJ	970 965 970 0	-2	125
975 Pernod-Saint-Gobain BBJ	975 970 975 0	-2	125
980 Pernod-Saint-Gobain CCJ	980 975 980 0	-2	125
985 Pernod-Saint-Gobain DDJ	985 980 985 0	-2	125
990 Pernod-Saint-Gobain EJJ	990 985 990 0	-2	125
995 Pernod-Saint-Gobain FJJ	995 990 995 0	-2	125
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1005 Pernod-Saint-Gobain HJJ	1005 1000 1005 0	-2	125
1010 Pernod-Saint-Gobain IJJ	1010 1005 1010 0	-2	125
1015 Pernod-Saint-Gobain JJJ	1015 1010 1015 0	-2	125
1020 Pernod-Saint-Gobain KJJ	1020 1015 1020 0	-2	125
1025 Pernod-Saint-Gobain LJJ	1025 1020 1025 0	-2	125
1030 Pernod-Saint-Gobain MJJ	1030 1025 1030 0	-2	125
1035 Pernod-Saint-Gobain NJJ	1035 1030 1035 0	-2	125
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1085 Pernod-Saint-Gobain XJJ	1085 1080 1085 0	-2	125
1090 Pernod-Saint-Gobain YJJ	1090 1085 1090 0	-2	125
1095 Pernod-Saint-Gobain ZJJ	1095 1090 1095 0	-2	125
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1105 Pernod-Saint-Gobain BBJ	1105 1100 1105 0	-2	125
1110 Pernod-Saint-Gobain CCJ	1110 1105 1110 0	-2	125
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1120 Pernod-Saint-Gobain EJJ	1120 1115 1120 0	-2	125
1125 Pernod-Saint-Gobain FJJ	1125 1120 1125 0	-2	125
1130 Pernod-Saint-Gobain GJJ	1130 1125 1130 0	-2	125
1135 Pernod-Saint-Gobain HJJ	1135 1130 1135 0	-2	125
1140 Pernod-Saint-Gobain IJJ	1140 1135 1140 0	-2	125
1145 Pernod-Saint-Gobain JJJ	1145 1140 1145 0	-2	125
1150 Pernod-Saint-Gobain KJJ	1150 1145 1150 0	-2	125
1155 Pernod-Saint-Gobain LJJ	1155 1150 1155 0	-2	125
1160 Pernod-Saint-Gobain MJJ	1160 1155 1160 0	-2	125
1165 Pernod-Saint-Gobain NJJ	1165 1160 1165 0	-2	125
1170 Pernod-Saint-Gobain OJJ	1170 1165 1170 0	-2	125
1175 Pernod-Saint-Gobain PJJ	1175 1170 1175 0	-2	125
1180 Pernod-Saint-Gobain QJJ	1180 1175 1180 0	-2	125
1185 Pernod-Saint-Gobain RJJ	1185 1180 1185 0	-2	125
1190 Pernod-Saint-Gobain SJJ	1190 1185 1190 0	-2	125
1195 Pernod-Saint-Gobain TJJ	1195 1190 1195 0	-2	125





## ■ EDINBURGH

Celebrating a half-century: from the glorious days of the great divas like Sutherland and Callas ...



## ■ EDINBURGH

... to the popular cabaret shows by Marlene Dietrich that delighted adoring audiences in the Sixties ...

## THE TIMES ARTS



## ■ EDINBURGH

... and the avant-garde visions of the director Peter Sellars, Edinburgh marks 50 years of festivals



## ■ OFFER

See Gerry Marsden relive the Sixties in *Ferry Cross the Mersey*, with The Times Theatre Club

As the world descends on Edinburgh for the fiftieth festival, Richard Morrison reviews its often turbulent past

# The greatest talent show on Earth



"An endeavour to provide a stimulus to the establishing of a new way of life": the inaugural Festival Council meeting, 1947



Robert Wilson's *Dr Faustus Lights the Lights*, 1993



In 1963, Martha Graham's hands ushered in a new dance era



Maria Callas as Aminta in *La Sonnambula*, 1957



Ian McKellen: played Richard II and Edward II in 1969

**H**ow different it all was — how pure, how noble — in 1947. "May I assure you," wrote Sir John Falconer, the Lord Provost, in the foreword to the first programme, "that this Festival is not a commercial undertaking in any way. It is an endeavour to provide a stimulus to the establishing of a new way of life centred round the arts. Edinburgh hopes that... visitors [will] refresh their souls and reaffirm their belief in things other than material."

Not a commercial undertaking? A new way of life centred round the arts? Souls refreshed? A belief in things other than material? If you survey the turbulent first half-century of the world's biggest cultural jamboree, now memorably chronicled by Eileen Miller in *The Edinburgh International Festival, 1947-1996* (Scolar Press), you return to Falconer's brave words with a sense of wonder.

How on earth could this high-minded undertaking have flourished in a city which seems to have begrimed its presence, its expenditure, its elitism and its cosmopolitanism? How did Falconer's ideals survive maulings by local councillors who regarded the whole parade as a "colossal squandering of public money" (to quote the most infamous attack, by Labour in 1977), or the supercilious sniping of many London critics, or the equally deplorable xenophobia often displayed in the Scottish press?

Historical circumstances certainly favoured Edinburgh at the start. Famous European festivals, notably Bayreuth and Salzburg, were still in postwar disarray. Fine performers were available: indeed, many were desperate for work. And there was a tremendous feeling of cultural rebirth: the recognition of a need to reconstruct people's minds and sensibilities as well as their homes and factories.

That inaugural Edinburgh Festival had something else, too. Since Rudolf Bing, its first director, was primarily a classical music man, many of his top performers came from Germany, Austria and Italy. Thus the festival represented a burying of hatchets. Bruno Walter — a Jew who had fled Austria 12 years previously — agreed to conduct the Vienna Philharmonic at Edinburgh. The festival, he said, was "a meeting of old friends who did not know if they were still friends — but they were".

**T**hat 1947 festival banished austerity, at least temporarily. The castle was floodlit for four nights, despite fuel restrictions. The performances were exciting. The sun shone for three weeks. There was a "fringe" from the beginning (six companies), a film festival (75 documentaries), a tattoo — and no fewer than 275 journalists in attendance.

But seeds of future discord were sown as well. Immediately it was apparent that Edinburgh had no theatre large or well-equipped enough to do justice to big opera productions. In the 1950s, after the Hamburg Opera labelled the King's Theatre "the worst in the world", plans were floated to build a Festival Theatre. A mere 40 years later they came to fruition. In the interim there were a hundred stories of backstage recriminations, as one visiting company after another failed to squeeze quart-sized sets and orchestras into pint-sized theatres.

Other early criticisms have also echoed through the decades. There was "not enough drama", although some Old Vic productions were gloriously starry occasions. There was little contemporary music, although when Edinburgh did sample continental-style avant-garde music, with the premiere of an Iain Hamilton piece in 1959, it was greeted with almost total silence. And there was a bias against visual art; only in the early 1960s,

of course, there were far fewer festivals competing for top names then, and fees were correspondingly smaller. Even so, in 1951 the New York Philharmonic gave Edinburgh no fewer than 14 concerts. Ferrier, Fonteyn, Robbins, Sutherland and Callas all appeared in the 1950s — and when Callas failed to appear the 24-year-old Renata Scotti seized her chance of stardom. In 1962 Shostakovich heard 25 of his works at the festival. Marlene Dietrich played cabaret in 1964 and 1965, adored by the public and cursed by backstage staff.

Giulini was a regular; so was Karajan, although he didn't always enter into the festival spirit. When Lord Harewood, intent on scheduling more adventurous concerts, asked him whether the Berlin Philharmonic had any Schoenberg in its repertoire, Karajan replied: "I have never felt the necessity."

As the years passed, however, the deficits grew larger — and the protests of anti-festival councillors, of all political colours, became more strident. When the festival was bailed out by an emergency grant in 1961, a Tory councillor demanded that the "arty crafty people" running it be "replaced by business and political leaders", and to an extent they were. In 1976 it was the Labour-run Lothian Regional Council that withdrew festival funding altogether, claiming outrage at a projected £234,000 deficit for Peter Diamond's "dream team" (Abbado, Berganzo, Domingo) *Carmen*.

Two other festival directors — Robert Ponsonby and John Drummond — also resigned because of inadequate local funding. So, in the 1980s, the much-maligned Frank Dunlop tried a new tack. His populist and relatively inexpensive "world theatre" seasons may have incensed the music critics, but at least they put him on the same wavelength as the stridently anti-elitist Edinburgh District Council. Yet even he departed after a war of words with local councillors.

Yet the wealth of performing talent mustered in those early years takes the breath away.

But it wasn't only money that made some Edinburgh councillors froth at the mouth. Morality also exercised their small minds. In 1963 the appearance of a nude at an avant-garde happening was denounced by the Lord Provost, no less, as a "squalid incident". Producer and model were prosecuted for indecency, but defended successfully by Nicholas Fairbairn.

Not long afterwards, a delegation of councillors felt the need to travel to Frankfurt to judge for themselves how "offensive" three topless nuns were in a production of Pro-

kofieff's *The Fiery Angel* that had been booked for Edinburgh. (The nuns passed muster.) Little wonder, then, that in 1964, when the artistic director Lord Harewood became entangled in messy divorce proceedings, he decided that he should tender his resignation. It was accepted.

Perhaps the most remarkable and heartening chapter in the Edinburgh story is the most recent. During the 1990s, while other British cultural institutions have struggled to survive, Edinburgh has experienced a glorious rebirth. To

put it all down to the taciturn

butterfly Brian McMaster would not be entirely just.

The crucial conversion of the old Empire bingo hall into a magnificent Festival Theatre was planned in Dunlop's era.

But McMaster has revealed an uncanny knack for combining stability (an almost embarrassing £190,000 surplus in his first year) and flair. Where Dunlop had blurred the distinction between festival proper and fringe, McMaster has regularly engaged our era's most talked-about theatre directors — Peter Sellars, Robert Wilson, Mark Morris, Peter Stein, Robert Lepage — and

lifted the official proceedings into a different league.

That is as it should be. In its fiftieth year, the festival might not yet have succeeded in pioneering "a new way of life centred round the arts". But the thousands who flock to Edinburgh in the coming three weeks will find plenty to "refresh their souls and reaffirm their belief in things other than material".

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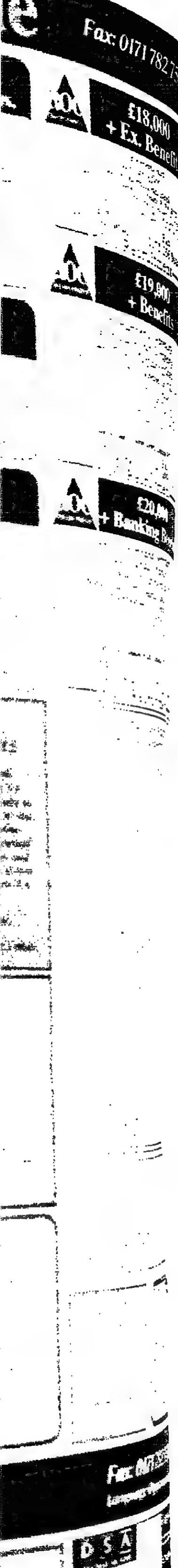
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7 1996

CREME UPDATE 35

More secretaries are improving their opportunities through on-job training — but it is still important to network, says Jennai Cox

# If you want to get on, get on a course

The highly educated secretary is expected to bear new responsibilities — but as the job becomes more managerial and technology more complex, training is often neglected. Research by the Industrial Society in 1993 showed that only 10 per cent of the average training budget was allocated to support staff.

Elaine Howard, the principal of Kudos Training, says that secretaries are no longer judged by who they work for but have to establish their individual credibility. Many of those who are qualified by experience more than education feel they need a qualification.

As a result, a number of companies are now giving better training, offering staff the opportunity to improve their skills in administration and business technology, text processing, marketing, databases, spreadsheets, networks, multimedia and programming.

There are also courses on assertiveness, self-confidence building, time management, handling pressure and management skills.

Bass, for example, has established training schemes which will help secretaries to develop their

career or move to a new field. The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) recently held seminars on secretarial development in Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield. Talking to the secretaries who attended, Halina Dowgan of the LCCI said that while their ambitions had risen, attitudes about how to achieve them had not.

"In many ways it seemed as though nothing had changed," she says. "They want progress, but are not always prepared to do something about it. They find it hard to be assertive."

When asked what topics they wanted to discuss, many secretaries cited relationships with their managers "as if they saw that as some kind of barrier". Ms Dowgan advises them to set up networks with other secretaries, making it less intimidating to approach the boss to discuss promotion.

When employers discover that a member of staff has enrolled on a work-related course, they are often

prepared to pay, according to research by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education.

Karen Murray, 34, acquired two professional qualifications paid for by her employer. "I wanted to do the courses as a back-up," she says. "They have benefited me enormously in developing my knowledge and confidence and my boss really appreciates my qualifications." Her new skills allowed her to move to a larger company and when she wanted to complete another course, she was offered study leave.

Because there is no specific career structure for support staff, they are advised to create their own. The Secretarial Development Network (SDN) has set up development centres as a result of research in which companies indicated a commitment to training, but little understanding of how to implement it. Freda Gardiner, of the SDN, says secretaries need to create their own opportunities by volunteering to do jobs outside their normal role and by challenging

procedures if they could be more efficient.

Roy Harrison, a policy adviser with the Institute of Personnel and Development, says progress is not always dependent on taking courses. Secretaries should also use their "bird's eye view" of the organisation to plan their career development. "Ambitious people have always known that continuing professional development is not just about formal training, it is about making the most of every learning opportunity that presents itself," he says.

But no one denies the need for continued education, particularly in a market opening up to Europe. The European Association of Professional Secretaries is to launch a lifelong learning model on the Internet in September through which members will be able to update skills on a self-study basis.

Seminars set up in response to demands for information on career development will also be run in the autumn by Fasttrack. The Under-Secretary for Education and Employment, Cheryl Gillan, will address the forum on the Government's vision of education for the next century.



Mel Turner at Biblio@tech: "It is so much easier than I expected"

MANY secretaries worry that technology is passing them by. In America they could pop into their local high street cyber centre for a short course on the World Wide Web for example. Now Britain is beginning to catch up.

In Fulham, southwest London, Tig and Nabil Shabka have just opened a local centre called Biblio@Tech, designed to take the worry out of learning. With modern art on the walls and comfortable cane chairs, it has the look and feel of a library, because unless staff feel happy using computers, their main purpose in increasing efficiency is lost. Mr Shabka says. "Computers can be the biggest time wasters if you do not know how to approach them."

Interactive audio training on dozens of programmes, including Microsoft Word for Windows, Word Perfect, PageMaker and Quark, mean customers can go at their own pace. PowerPoint, used for doing presentations, is another popular programme, as are the Photoshop and Excel packages.

Mel Turner works for a promotions company which recently sent her on two Biblio@Tech courses, including one on how to use the Internet for work. The company had the worldwide system installed but not enough staff knew how to use it.

"I was amazed," she says. "It is so much easier than I expected. I have learnt at my own pace and it's given me the confidence to use the technology in the office."

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FOOTBALL: RANGERS BEGIN THEIR EUROPEAN CUP CAMPAIGN WITH TESTING FIXTURE AT IBROX

# Pressure on Laudrup to open up Russians

By KEVIN McCARRA

**IF PERPLEXING** opponents is the key to victory, then Alan Vladikavkaz pose a mighty threat to Rangers in the European Cup preliminary round tie that begins at Ibrox this evening. The remarks of the visitors' manager, Valery Gazzayev, have been furrowing brows.

On arrival in Glasgow, he began with a severe scolding of his goalkeeper, Zaur Khapov, holding him solely responsible for last year's 2-1 aggregate defeat by Liverpool in the Uefa Cup. Gazzayev then moved on to pondering whether the player has yet recovered his nerve. All of this, presumably, is supposed to provoke Khapov into defiant excellence.

Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, was even more puzzled.

The achievement of such creativity is made all the more awkward by the absence of Paul Gascoigne, who is both suspended from both legs and, in any case, injured. As a result, great emphasis is bound to be placed on Brian Laudrup, although the dependency of team-mates has been known to unsettle him in European matches.

"He has suffered on these occasions because of other people's expectations," Smith said, "but, beforehand, you can never expect that any single player will go out and win the game by himself. Each individual needs collective support. I feel we will be more able to provide that now because our squad as a whole is stronger than it has been for several seasons."

A deputy for Gascoigne is never easily located, but Smith's opinion is borne out by the fact that Alan McLaren and David Robertson, who will not return from injury until next month at the earliest, are readily replaced by the summer's signings, Jochum Bjorklund and Jorg Alberz.

Rangers may believe that balance in the team, rather than the contribution of individuals, is their strength, but it is one also possessed by Vladikavkaz. Gazzayev's squad provided only two members of the Russia squad in the European championship this summer: Omar Tetezadze and Igor Yanovski — but they are nonetheless a potent force. They lead the table in Russia once again and only a win this evening will keep the element of risk in the return leg manageable for Rangers.

Heart of Midlothian, who meet Red Star in Belgrade in the Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday, have resolved at least one of the problems created by the match. After a meeting of the Scottish Football League clubs yesterday, their game with Dunfermline Athletic, which was due to be played on Saturday, has been postponed.

Hibernian have signed Brian Welsh, of Dundee United, for a fee yet to be agreed, and Ian Cameron of Partick Thistle. In a swap deal for the latter, Gareth Evans and David Farrell move to Firhill. Dundee United restocked their squad by buying Neil Duffy, from Dundee for £200,000.



Laudrup, in the absence of Gascoigne, has the task of trying to break down Vladikavkaz. Photograph: Allsport

## Ten-man Celtic rely on resilience

By KEVIN McCARRA

CELTIC'S hopes of advancing in the Uefa Cup remain in good order, but they were dishevelled in every other respect during the 0-0 draw away to Kosice of Slovakia in the first leg of the preliminary round. Elsewhere, Aberdeen were wholly gratified by a 4-1 victory away to Zalgiris Vilnius of Lithuania.

Although great ambitions surround Celtic, pride was taken yesterday in the team's resilience rather than in any control they exerted on the match. Tommy Burns's side even had to survive the loss of Simon Donnelly, who was sent off for a petulant tackle from behind on Vladimir Janocko before bringing him down. He then remedied matters by saving Tzvara's penalty.

The goalkeeper then caused fresh alarm by conceding an indirect free-kick after taking too many steps. As time passed, however, the Glasgow club became more organised, defended in depth and contained Kosice with greater ease.

Once Donnelly had depart-

ed, the Slovaks strove to break through, bringing on Robert Semenik, their leading scorer, but manufactured few opportunities. While Celtic employed just a single forward, Jorge Cadete, supporting him with the strenuous running of Phil O'Donnell and others, he struck the post in the first half and wasted an opportunity after the interval.

Finding the net presented considerably fewer problems in Lithuania. Aberdeen will have been relieved to have done the brunt of the damage after a hapless pre-season that included a 3-1 defeat by Everton and a 6-0 beating from Olympiakos of Greece.

There was far more aplomb in Vilnius yesterday. Billy Dodds opened the scoring, with the first of his two goals, two minutes from the interval, volleying home a left-footed drive after a pass from Colin Woodthorpe. However, their advantage was wiped out after

49 minutes when the unmarked Tomas Razanauskas equalised.

Joe Miller hacked clear from the goal-line a few moments later, but Aberdeen always looked able to penetrate the Lithuanians' defence. Stephen Glass cut inside from the left to restore the lead in the 72nd minute, and the end of the Vilnius side ebbed away.

Further goals were added in the last ten minutes by Dods, who converted a penalty, and Duncan Shearer, who came on as a substitute. Roy Aitken, the Aberdeen manager, had argued that pre-season travails were irrelevant. Anyone who thought that a platitude was obliged to accept it as a shining truth yesterday.

The result also represents a considerable advance for the Pittodrie club, whose last appearance in Europe ended in ignominious defeat by Skonto Riga, of Latvia.

zied by another remark. "This game will not be a walkover," Gazzayev said.

Smith could barely imagine that anyone had anticipated a substantial victory for the Scottish club in the first place: "I don't think anyone would ever expect an easy game against the champions of Russia. I can only suppose that he is trying to influence our supporters and make them believe he is concerned about playing Rangers."

This opening stage of the European Cup has been a place of tribulation for the Ibrox club in the past. When Smith spoke about the need to defend vigilantly even on the club's own ground, the memory of defeats under the away goals rule by Sparta Prague and Levski Sofia in previous years must have been flitting across his mind. At home, though, Rangers' primary duty is to break down Vladikavkaz.

Hibernian have signed Brian Welsh, of Dundee United, for a fee yet to be agreed, and Ian Cameron of Partick Thistle. In a swap deal for the latter, Gareth Evans and David Farrell move to Firhill. Dundee United restocked their squad by buying Neil Duffy, from Dundee for £200,000.

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## BOWLS

# Ireland forced to hang on for pairs victory

By GORDON ALLAN

COMFORTABLE wins over Fiji and Spain gave England a share of the leadership with Scotland, the defending champions, and South Africa in their triples section at the women's world championships at Leamington Spa. Six qualifying rounds remain.

There was a multiple tie at the top of the other section, with New Zealand holding a slight advantage on shots difference over five other countries, including Wales.

In the pairs, holders Phillis Nolan and Margaret Johnston, of Ireland, were grateful to edge through 21-16 against Ann Dainton and Rita Jones, of Wales, after leading 21-8. They remain two points behind South Africa.

In the other section, Fiji and Jersey were a single point ahead of Scotland, with England, Julie Forrest and Joyce Lindores, the Scottish pair, were beaten 31-8 by Marilyn Peddell and Willow Fong, of Australia.

The result of the pairs match between England and India on Monday may be irrelevant in the long term, but the circumstances of England's 22-21 win were still being talked about around the greens four hours later.

Down 16-5 after 11 ends, Jill Fitzgerald and Norma Shaw seemed to be fighting a lost cause against Jeanette Lewis and Shasha Chabra, from Calcutta. On the penultimate end, with England still 21-15 behind, an Indian bowl touched the jack on its way into the ditch but was not chalked.

## COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS

The four top-scorers in the individual

Stableford competition played on the company

golf days listed below now comprise the company

team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

Mees Pierson

Date	Company name	Venue	Score
3 JUN	LANGFORD & THOMSON	MEIRE G & CC	137
4 JUN	JAMESMANSFIELD LTD	WORSTHORN 33	137
5 JUN	ROBERT KEY'S GROUP	POYLE	147
6 JUN	DENE 40	E DERREY 31	147
7 JUN	DARA COMMERCIAL CREDIT LIMITED	ST PIERRE	129
8 JUN	A WILSON 39	E COOMBE 34	131
10 JUN	NEVILLE RUSSELL	COLLINGSTREE PARK 181	
11 JUN	H SMITH 32	C MARYCOCK 34	142
12 JUN	BENNETT BROOKS	PORTAL	142
13 JUN	ECO LIMITED	E DRAKE 36	142
14 JUN	SMC PNEUMATICS UK LTD	FOREST OF ARDEN	116
15 JUN	W POTTER 34	E BOTTES 34	116
16 JUN	CITROEN SCOTTISH OPEN	DALMADY	132
17 JUN	E CLARK 36	A FORSYTH 33	141
18 JUN	LEE & PRIESTLEY SOLICITORS	RUDDING PARK	137
19 JUN	W WHITFIELD 34	E CLAGHORN 32	137
20 JUN	ARTHUR ANDERSEN	THE OXFORDSHIRE	122
21 JUN	W WILCOX 35	T HINERLEY 30	122
22 JUN	WORLD DESIGN & TRADE LTD	PATSHULL PARK	155
23 JUN	OCE UK LTD	E CLUB & G CLUB	155
24 JUN	GASCOIGNE 38	E T WALKER 41	141
25 JUN	HASELDEN BUTTALL DISTRIBUTION LIMITED	THE BELFRY	131
26 JUN	NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK	ROYAL ST GEORGES	152
27 JUN	WILLIAMSON 38	E HINERLEY 37	152
28 JUN	GENERAL SIGNAL NETWORKS	INDOOR PARK	168
29 JUN	H MORRISON 41	E MORRISON 39	168
30 JUN	HYATT HOTELS & RESORTS	MANNINGS HEATH	148
31 JUN	S SPARROW 30	E BRANNAN 41	148
1 JUL	BARCLAYS BANK	BLACKWELL	155
2 JUL	BRITISH AIRWAYS TRAVEL SHOPS LIMITED	STOKE POOGES	141
3 JUL	WARD KNOWLES LTD	CLITHEROE	141
4 JUL	CEP TORQUAY	LOSTWICHIEL	163
5 JUL	WHITEBREAD PLC	BERKHAMSTED	152
6 JUL	TMD CARAT	TRENTWELL	144
7 JUL	WILLIS SELECTION LTD	WOURWICH	120
8 JUL	J PANTIN 27	E SLADE 44	150
9 JUL	R SMITH 37	E WILSON 36	150
10 JUL	MARIA LANKFORD	WINDSOR	150
11 JUL	GENERAL SIGNAL NETWORKS	INDOOR PARK	168
12 JUL	H NAYLOR 38	E COOMBE 37	168
13 JUL	HYATT HOTELS & RESORTS	MANNINGS HEATH	148
14 JUL	S FLAMAN 38	E BRANNAN 37	148
15 JUL	WILLIS SELECTION LTD	CLITHEROE	141
16 JUL	CEP TORQUAY	LOSTWICHIEL	163
17 JUL	WHITEBREAD PLC	BERKHAMSTED	152
18 JUL	TMD CARAT	TRENTWELL	144
19 JUL	WILLIS SELECTION LTD	WOURWICH	120
20 JUL	J PANTIN 27	E KIRKBY 33	150
21 JUL	R SMITH 37	E DUFFY 34	150
22 JUL	HYATT HOTELS & RESORTS	WINDSOR	150
23 JUL	PHILLIPS PETROLEUM CO UK LTD	THE ROYAL CROMER	127
24 JUL	RANGER OIL LTD	E WISLEY	143
25 JUL	HYATT HOTELS & RESORTS	WINDSOR	143
26 JUL	WILLIS SELECTION LTD	E COOMBE 37	143
27 JUL	PHILLIPS PETROLEUM CO UK LTD	THE ROYAL CROMER	127
28 JUL	RANGER OIL LTD	E WISLEY	143
29 JUL	HYATT HOTELS & RESORTS	WINDSOR	143
30 JUL	WILLIS SELECTION LTD	E COOMBE 37	143
31 JUL	PHILLIPS PETROLEUM CO UK LTD	THE ROYAL CROMER	127
1 AUG	RANGER OIL LTD	E WISLEY	143
2 AUG	HYATT HOTELS & RESORTS	WINDSOR	143
3 AUG	WILLIS SELECTION LTD	E COOMBE 37	143
4 AUG	PHILLIPS PETROLEUM CO UK LTD	THE ROYAL CROMER	127
5 AUG	RANGER OIL LTD	E WISLEY	143
6 AUG	HYATT HOTELS & RESORTS	WINDSOR	143
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29 AUG	RANGER OIL LTD	E WISLEY	143
30 AUG	HYATT HOTELS & RESORTS	WINDSOR	143
31 AUG	WILLIS SELECTION LTD	E COOMBE 37	143
1 SEP	PHILLIPS PETROLEUM CO UK LTD	THE ROYAL	

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7 1996

## RACING

# Fabricius at odds with fixture list

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

**ROD FABRICIUS**, the general manager and clerk of the course at Goodwood, yesterday challenged the British Horseracing Board (BHB) to take a hard look at the future of the sport and questioned whether the Horserace Betting Levy Board was getting value for money in financing the fixture list.

In an outburst reflecting his concern for the sport, Fabricius said that funding of an increasingly bulky fixture list was "panning to mediocrity", and doubted that the increase in fixtures was sustainable in the long term. "I think we are diluting the product's appeal to racegoers by offering the same old fare, day after day," he said.

"I wonder whether racegoers are enjoying it as much," he said. "And I wonder how betting shop punters cope with races starting every five minutes. I'd have thought the non-stop opportunity to bet is a turn-off." Fabricius' comments are at odds with Racecourse Association policy, which welcomes the growth in fixtures.

He also called on the Levy Board — which acts as racing's treasury — to consider a two-tier approach to funding fixtures. "The way the board directs its support can be more focused. It can be used more effectively in creating a mechanism whereby Levy Board funding is matched by other sources of funding from the racecourses themselves."

The Levy Board fully funds the vast majority of some 1,000 British fixtures. All those re-

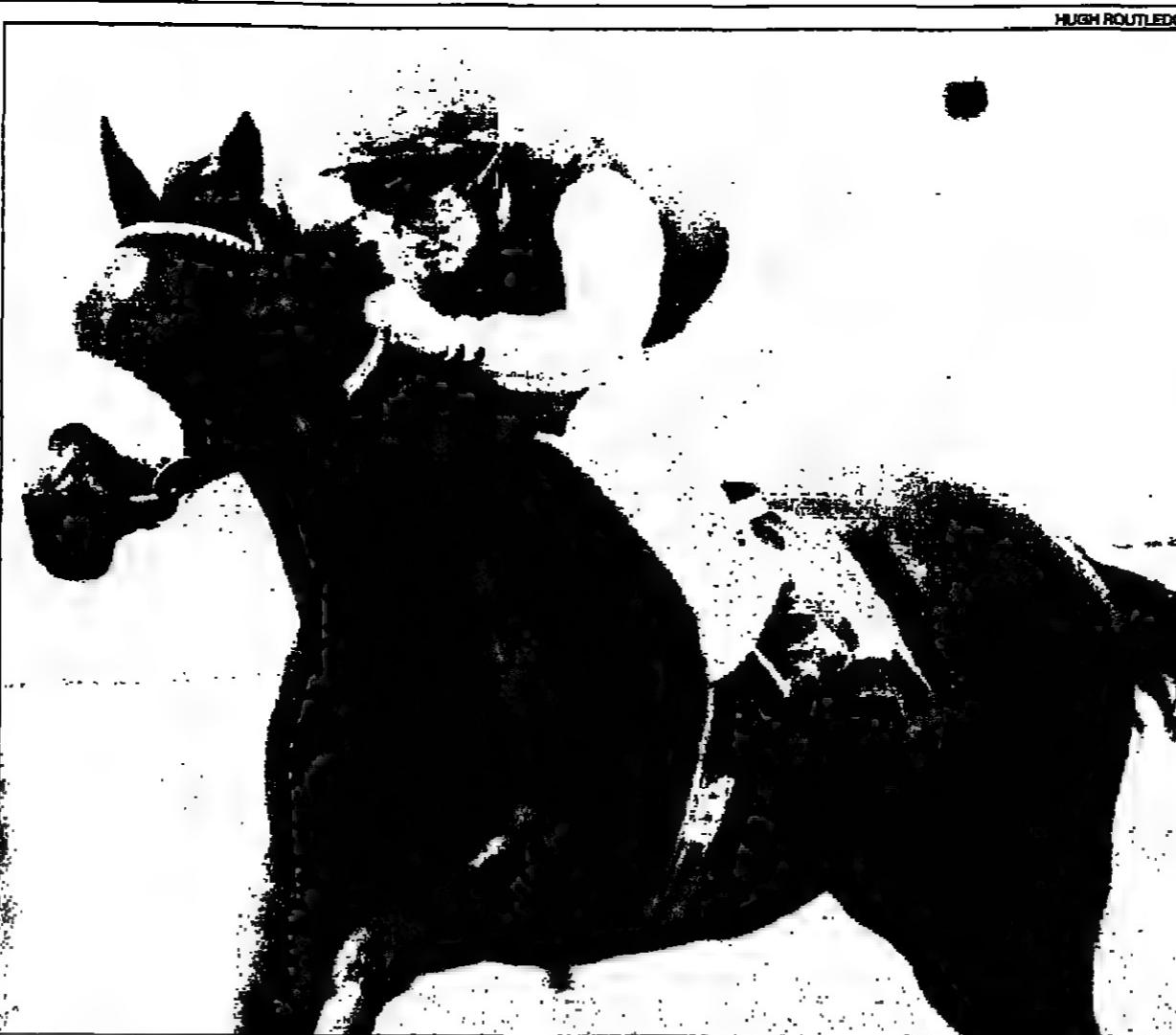
quired to meet bookmaker-inspired criteria receive full funding to maintain a regular diet of racing in off-course betting shops. Racecourses staging such fixtures are all but guaranteed a profit even though the paying attendance is sparse.

But the BHB, while largely maintaining these criteria fixtures, has introduced a slate of evening meetings which are popular with racegoers and those racecourses taking the gate money. Fabricius feels the series of evening meetings that now clash with Glorious Goodwood week represent a significant threat to attendance figures.

"This begs the need for the BHB to make its priorities clear, although it seems pretty adamant that customer-friendly fixtures is the way it is going," he said. "I am not objecting to the racecourses' right to stage fixtures, I am citing our situation as an example of the increased availability of racing. It reflects the expansion of the fixture list and the poor return I believe the Levy Board is getting on its investment."

Somewhat surprisingly, the Racehorse Owners' Association has long held Fabricius' view that prize-money is spread too thinly. Many trainers believe there is too much racing and some jockeys admit they are exhausted by the frantic schedule of afternoon and evening racing in the summer months. The subject has become a bone of contention ever since the BHB

embraced a policy to please allcomers two years ago.



Blue Duster has the group one Prix Maurice de Gheest at Deauville on Sunday as her next objective

## Blue Duster has Deauville target

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

**BLUE DUSTER**, last season's champion on two-year-old filly, is to complete her preparation for her return to the big league at Newmarket this morning. The Danzig filly is on target to contest the group one Prix Maurice de Gheest in France on Sunday.

Trained by David Loder, Blue Duster made a belated return to the track at Yarmouth last month after missing the £1,000 Guineas through injury. She had little difficulty maintaining her unbeaten record but faces her first real test at Deauville. Among her expected opponents is the July Cup winner, Anabaa. However, Loder is well placed to assess

Blue Duster's prospects. He has a valuable yardstick in Lucayan Prince, who chased Anabaa home at Newmarket last month.

Sunday promises to be a hectic day for Loder. Lucayan Prince is himself engaged in Germany, while Bahamian Bounty, a facile winner last time out, could represent the stable in the Heinrich St. Phoenix Stakes at Leopardstown.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: AUGUSTAN  
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(6.20 Kempton Park)

Vergias, trained by Kevin Prendergast to win the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot, heads the home defence, but a strong British challenge is expected for a prize regularly farmed by British stables.

At Newmarket yesterday, Halling went well in a gallop with Sharaf Kabeer in preparation for the Juddmonte International Stakes in two weeks' time. The five-year-old entire, winner of the race 12 months ago, was partnered in the gallop by Lanfranco Dettori, who hopes to resume from injury in time to ride Halling at York.

Boojum, trained by Barry Hills, was 54 lengths fourth to the André Fabre-trained newcomer, Green Lady, in the Prix des Roches at Deauville yesterday.

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quired to meet bookmaker-inspired criteria receive full funding to maintain a regular diet of racing in off-course betting shops. Racecourses staging such fixtures are all but guaranteed a profit even though the paying attendance is sparse.

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DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.05 JAMAICA SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O; 22.070; 61 15yds) (9 runners)

1 4422 FEARLESS CAVALIER 11 R Holmstedt 8-11 ... F Lynch (2) 4  
2 30 SUMMERVILLE WOOD 9 P Morris 8-11 ... J Egerton 8  
3 00 CHAMPAGNE ON ICE 9 P Morris 8-11 ... J Egerton 8  
4 2000 CROWN OF THORNS 9 (D.F.) 8-11 ... W V D'Onza 8  
5 00 ELENA 23 11yds 8-11 ... M Fenton 7  
6 00 SHARP POPPET 23 M Bell 8-11 ... J Daniel 8  
7 00 2000 BELLS 20 J Bell 8-11 ... J Daniel 8  
8 00 VALENTINE FAIRY 15 R Ross 8-11 ... J Daniel 8  
9 00 2000 BELLS 20 J Bell 8-11 ... J Daniel 8  
10 00 2000 BELLS 20 J Bell 8-11 ... J Daniel 8  
11 00 2000 BELLS 20 J Bell 8-11 ... J Daniel 8  
12 00 QUANTA BOY 14 8yrs 3-11 ... N Adams 14  
13 00 OSCURISTS GIFT 23 8yrs 4-10 ... N Adams 14  
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CRICKET: LUSH HEADINGLEY OUTFIELD MAY OFFER BEST HOPE OF BLUNTING PAKISTAN'S PACE ATTACK

# Lloyd poised to take control of England's destiny

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON



DAVID LLOYD looked forward yesterday not only to the second Test against Pakistan, which begins at Headingley tomorrow, but also to the land that lies beyond. Lloyd, appointed England coach in April on a summer contract, has verbally agreed to take England to Zimbabwe and New Zealand this winter and expects written confirmation, and an extension of his position, before the Tests end.

"A couple of years would be nice," he said after rain curtailed England's net session. A two-year contract, in accordance with the AfIELD contract, which was published last week.

would give Lloyd the job for next summer's Ashes series, a winter tour to the West Indies, five Tests against South Africa in 1998 and a return to Australia. The next World Cup takes place in England in 1999.

It was widely expected that Lloyd would remain in office so long as he did not mess things up this summer, and he has made a good impression in the dressing-room. England won the one-day series against India 2-0 and, by winning at Edgbaston, they edged the Test series. But they lost at Lord's two weeks ago, as another three-Test series started, against Pakistan, and expect the second Test to be played on a well-grassed pitch.

Although he answers to the de-

scription of coach, Lloyd will effectively become the team manager. Raymond Illingworth, who resigned that position after the World Cup, stands down as chairman of selectors next month, leaving Lloyd in a position of considerable, if not absolute, power. In the reconstituted selection panel, the coach might not have a vote, and that is fine by Lloyd. "It might make my position with the players easier," he said.

Yesterday, as the Pakistanis went home without knocking up, and England abandoned their practice when the rain returned, the pitch sweated under its covers. Further rain is forecast today, which can only make the outfield lusher than it

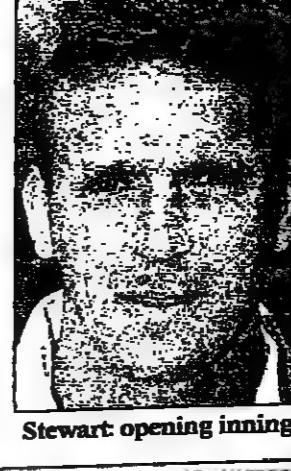
already is, and make the ball more difficult to scuff which might reduce the effectiveness of the Pakistani attack. On such slender threads do England's hopes rest.

We are not worried about Pakistan," Lloyd said, "though of course we respect them and I know from talking to Wasim, that they respect us. So far they have won one Test out of three and it would be terrific go down to the Oval one each."

To win at Headingley, England will have to counter the swing bowling of Waqar Younis more confidently than they did at Lord's, where he took four wickets in each innings and cut a swath through some feeble batting on the last day.

after England had reached lunch with only man out, Alec Stewart, who batted No 3 there, will partner Michael Atherton at the head of the innings this time, with John Crawley replacing Hick at No 5.

In an attempt to replicate the fuller length that Waqar favours, Lloyd used a bowling machine in the nets yesterday, which propelled composition balls at a pace approaching 75 miles per hour, a shade short of Waqar's fastest. England's batsmen have been given a crash course in blocking workers but, as Lloyd admitted, there is not much a coach can do to alter techniques, such as "picking up" a bat, that have developed over many years.

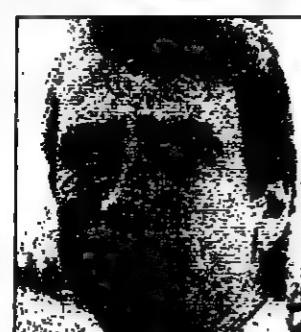


Stewart opening innings

ADRIAN BROOKS

## Counties face up to life without overseas players

ALAN LEE



Cricket commentary

THE day when English cricket emboldens itself to get by without overseas players has surely been advanced by the Jarre in store next Tuesday, when both Yorkshire and Essex must consult weather forecasts before deciding whether their Australians can be selected on one of the most prestigious days of the domestic season.

This particular dilemma, created by Australia's intended involvement in a one-day tournament in Sri Lanka, did not come as a surprise to the counties concerned, for whom it has long been a calculated risk. But it is symptomatic of the wider problem of shrinking availability of foreign players due to the expansion of the international calendar.

Michael Bevan, of Yorkshire, and Stuart Law, of Essex, must fly out of Heathrow Airport on Tuesday evening. Both counties asked the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) for 24 hours' grace but the requests have so far been refused. Hence, if poor weather threatens the NatWest Trophy semi-finals, at Old Trafford and the Oval, the clubs must either leave out their overseas player or risk completing the game with ten men.

The unsatisfactory nature of this is exacerbated by the strong possibility that the ACB will cancel the Sri Lankan trip on security grounds, after a meeting with the chosen players. Bevan and Law would then return to England, at the expense of their counties, both of whom remain in contention for at least two of the domestic honours.

This, however, is no isolated incident. Sri Lanka, frustrated by the lack of international opposition during their own

summers, are increasingly scheduling series in August and September. Pakistan also host international cricket in September while, at the beginning of each English season, West Indies — shortly to put their leading players under binding contracts — are extending their domestic programme in addition to their regular April and May Test matches.



Bevan: Ashes candidate

India visit the Caribbean next spring and also have commitments later in the English summer. This has effectively ended negotiations between Middlesex and Javagal Srinath, India's new-ball bowler. Middlesex were interested in signing Srinath for the next two years but the wage bill would have been high and his availability low.

No more than half the 18 first-class counties have overseas players engaged for next season and most now accept that the leading cricketers of the world are not a viable proposition. Yorkshire, seeking a replacement if Bevan is required for the Ashes tour of England, have discounted a return by Sachin Tendulkar, who played for them in 1992. "He has too much cricket to play for India," Chris Hassell, the Yorkshire chief executive, said. "It's a non-starter."

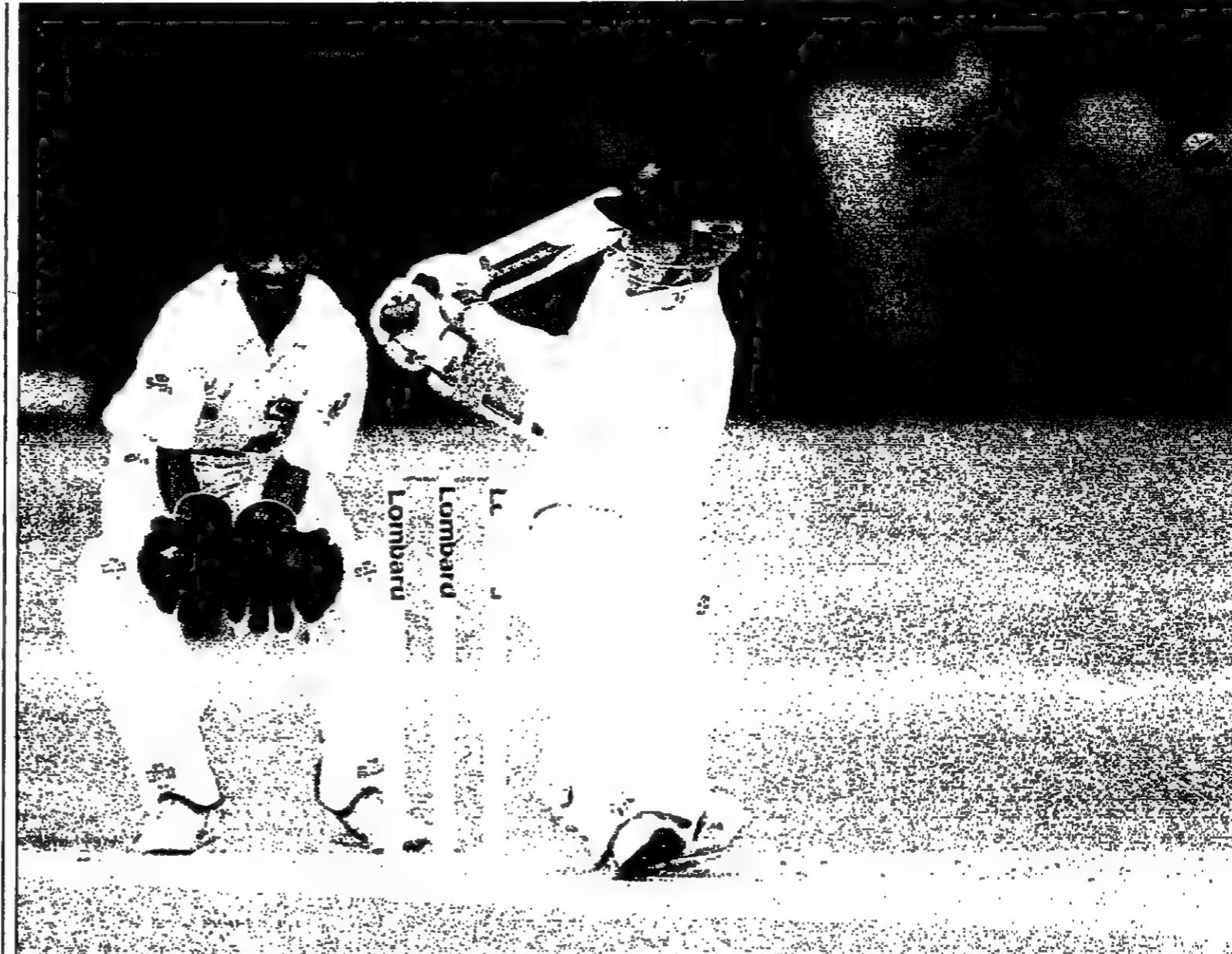
Agents acting for Waqar Younis, of Pakistan, will demand a high price for a quality product. Durham are pursuing an interest but Surrey, Waqar's old county, are not yet committed to trying to re-sign him. Their fingers were burnt when, through injury and unavailability, he failed to play a single game in either 1994 or 1995, and they will not readily go down that road again.

Even Essex, traditional supporters of the overseas market and a club who have made few errors of judgment within it, are expressing doubts. "They have become a bit of a problem," Peter Edwards, the Essex general manager, said. "The amount of international cricket is eating ever more into our season and making it very difficult to find a suitable overseas player.

"Law has done marvelously for us. Some of our members were dubious and told us we didn't know what we were doing, but he has already made 11 centuries.

"We will look to bring him back for our last two championship games — even if the Sri Lanka tour goes ahead. But it is an expensive exercise and it comes at a very bad time."

The Test and County Cricket Board plans a moratorium on overseas players in 1999, a chance for counties to assess life without them. With each passing week, the prospects of it becoming a permanent ban are increasing.



Adams sweeps on his way to a score of 69, ultimately in a losing cause for England, in the under-15 World Cup match at Lemsbury yesterday

## Aggression saves day for India's boys

BY IVO TENNANT

LENSBURY (India won toss): India beat England by one wicket

IF CONFIRMATION were ever required that boys grow to cricketing maturity considerably more rapidly in India than they do in England, then this was the ground to be on yesterday. Not that this always makes them more effective. The opening match in the Lombard under-15 World Cup was not decided until the final over.

No matter that these boys from India knew little of English pitches and still less of life beyond the sub-continent. Their party consists not merely of small, guileful spinners but of strapping boys who bowl more quickly than their elders would suggest they can and who strike the ball handsomely off the front foot without bothering to play themselves in.

It would be best not to speculate on their chances of

winning this inaugural World Cup just yet. They have to play West Indies today and may well come up against a fascinating Pakistan side later in the fortnight. A collection of boys led by a relative of Javed Miandad and including the sons of Majid Khan and Abdul Qadir should be quite something.

Some 400 spectators, mostly parents, came to this attractive riverside ground yesterday.

The England hierarchy of David Lloyd and Micky Stewart is expected within the next two weeks, as indeed is Michael Atherton. Terry Venables, who knows a thing or two about coaching, will be speaking at a dinner this evening.

So these boys have opportunities quite unknown in their predecessors. They will have, of course, to contend with their techniques being analysed by Geoffrey Boycott in the televised semi-finals and final, but there are worse things than that. Hubert Doggart, president of the English Schools Cricket Association, said:

"This has come as a dynamic opportunity. It is self-evidently exciting and the result of some special relationships. Even ten years ago, this competition had not been considered."

This is a talented Indian side; and aggressive. They looked, in short, more of a team than did England. "You could find a Tendulkar among these boys," Sarkar Telwar, their coach, said, and it was not in jest. Standards and

enthusiasm for the game at this age level in India are, he feels, no different from what they have always been.

Each state has 20 coaches, appointed by the Government, to travel around the schools. The boys are accustomed to playing limited-overs matches. What is more, they have a number of sponsors, most of whom have been organised by Kapil Dev, one of their greatest cricketers.

India put England in through preference of chasing a target rather than any particular opinion about the pitch. They ensured the total they required would be within their compass. England, led by an Eltonian in London, whom Kent will have their eye on, gained their runs cheaply through half-centuries from Adams and Francis, a left-hander from King Edward VI, Southampton, a school which is nurturing a number of gifted cricketers.

Yet, for stroke play that was in turn felicitous and audacious, the Indians could not be compared. The Singhs — no relations — who opened the batting typified their cricket. They put on 58 for the first wicket, whereupon Sohni, the captain, came in and played two shots, a glance for four to fine leg and a drive to the long-on boundary, that were truly classy. He contributed 30, Gagan Singh 54, and victory was achieved with three balls remaining. Mahajan hitting a six off Bridge's final over.

### SCOREBOARD FROM LENSBOURY

ENGLAND		INDIA	
G J Singh c Chawla b Rakosh	11	G J Singh c Adams b Singh	54
J Adams c Chawla b Kail	22	R Singh run out	23
C Taylor c Chawla b Sohni	6	M J Lewis c Adams b Stewart	30
A J Bell c Chawla b Sohni	1	B Chetan c Adams b Bridge	19
S Puri c Sohni b Rakosh	6	I Gonda run out	11
A J Robins run out	5	V Mahajan not out	38
T R Hunter not out	5	F P Chawla b Bridge	1
G J Venables not out	5	H Sodhi c Adams b Bridge	0
S Puri c Chawla b Sohni	52	R Powar not out	0
E Extras (11, 10, 6, 6) 61	52	(P Chawla run out	0
Total (8 wkt, 50 overs) ..... 221	221	H Sodhi c Adams b Bridge	0
M Powell and B Murray did not bat.		R Powar not out	0
FALL OF WICKETS 1-28, 2-42, 3-121, 4-140, 5-208, 6-216, 7-220, 8-221		Extras (5, w 11) ..... 14	
BOWLING 10-0-181-1; G Singh 10-148-0; Raman 9-30; Sodhi 9-14-35-2; M Singh 5-17-0; Kail 4-16-0; Powar 11-0-37-2; Mahajan 5-17-0; Extras 10-0-38-1		Total (5, wkt, 50 overs) ..... 222	
D W Bushell and D Bushell 10-0-50-0; Umpires D Bushell and A Powar		FALL OF WICKETS 1-58, 2-107, 3-133, 4-140, 5-156, 6-181, 7-209, 8-209	
		BOWLING 10-0-134-2; Bridge 11-0-34-0; Stewart 11-3-44-2; Bridge 12-3-43-3; Powar 11-1-35-0; M Singh 11-2-37-0; Mahajan 11-2-37-0; Extras 11-0-38-1	
		10-0-134-2; Powar 11-0-35-0; Mahajan 11-2-37-0	

INDIA	
G J Singh c Adams b Singh	54
R Singh run out	23
M J Lewis c Adams b Stewart	30
B Chetan c Adams b Bridge	19
I Gonda run out	11
V Mahajan not out	38
F P Chawla b Bridge	1
H Sodhi c Adams b Bridge	0
R Powar not out	0
Extras (5, w 11) ..... 14	
Total (5, wkt, 50 overs) ..... 222	
FALL OF WICKETS 1-58, 2-107, 3-133, 4-140, 5-156, 6-181, 7-209, 8-209	
BOWLING 10-0-134-2; Bridge 11-0-34-0; Stewart 11-3-44-2; Bridge 12-3-43-3; Powar 11-0-35-0; M Singh 11-2-37-0; Mahajan 11-2-37-0	
10-0-134-2; Powar 11-0-35-0; Mahajan 11-2-37-0	

## Surrey aim to keep up pressure

SURREY, lying third in the Britannia Assurance Championship, will be looking to add impetus to their title challenge when they take on Lancashire at Southport today.

Both teams are without key players, who will be on Test duty at Headingly tomorrow. Surrey lose their captain, Alec Stewart, as well as Chris Lewis and Graham Thorpe, while Lancashire lose their two Test captains, Michael Atherton and Wasim Akram, and John Crowley.

Surrey are led by Adam Hollioake. Neil Fairbrother returns for Lancashire after missing the past two championship games with a calf injury and the off spinner, Gary Yates, an ever-present in Lancashire's one-day team this season, is included in the squad and could be in line for his championship debut.

□ Paul Smith, 32, the Warwickshire all-rounder who

was born in the county since 1982, has asked to be released from the last two months of his contract.

After Lewis's departure, Essex were kept in check until Wilson and Iltot came together to set up an exciting finish.

The South Africans will face some of England's finest prospects when they meet a Test and County Cricket Board XI at Chester-le-Street next week.

Liebenberg's main support came from Herschelle Gibbs, who scored 48 during a sec-

ond-wicket stand that produced 103 in 16 overs.

Liebenberg then underlined his ability in the field by taking a fine catch low down at short mid-wicket to remove Jonathan Lewis for 48 when Essex were threatening to gain the initiative.

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## GOLF

# Pretenders' chance to bridge the generation gap

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

**THE US PGA** Championship is distinctive for a number of reasons. In recent years it has upgraded itself from its status as the least important of the four major championships to an event worthy of its position in the professional game. It is now on a par with the three other majors and attracts one of the most competitive fields of the year, though a spate of withdrawals this week, including Severiano Ballesteros, Sandy Lyle and Barry Lane, has diminished the event's lustre somewhat.

The PGA starting near here tomorrow, the 78th in all, is being held at the pretentiously-titled Valhalla club. The club, with a course designed by Jack Nicklaus, is 15 miles south-east of the city that was the birthplace of Cassius Clay and now honours him with a road named Muhammad Ali Boulevard.

Kentucky, though, is a state better known for fried chicken, horse racing and bluegrass than for zero irons, titanium shafts and golfers. Bluegrass rough, which really does appear to the eye to have a tinge of blue in it, may sound as innocuous as a plant or a flower, but it grows virtuously at Valhalla and will undoubtedly play a part.

## Estrada throws down continental challenge

**CONTINENTAL** players dominated the first qualifying round of the Girls' British Open Amateur Golf Championship in wet and miserable conditions at Formby yesterday.

Maria Estrada, of Spain, led the way with a splendid 69, two under par, and then followed girls from France, Denmark and Spain before the first Britons, Kirsty Taylor, of Sanditon Springs, and Emma Weeks, of Bramshot Hill.

Rebecca Hudson, the Yorkshire teenager who last week retained her English girls' title and was a reserve for the Great Britain and Ireland Curtis Cup team which beat

determining who becomes champion on Sunday. "You could lose a small dog in there," Gary McCord, the America television commentator joked. "They've got some hay out there that you do not want to spend any time in."

Payne Stewart said: "Montgomery's age may throw up another of those men destined to be labelled 'The Next Generation' as if they are members of some pop group or other. This is the category of players who are perhaps good enough to win a major championship but have not yet done so. Tom Lehman was one such until he won the Open last month."

Other Americans in this category include Justin Leonard, who won his first tournament as a professional last Sunday, Phil Mickelson, David Duval, 14th in the Open, and Steve Stricker, who was 22nd. None is yet 30 and nor is Tim Herron, the prodigiously long hitter who won the Honda Classic in March. Such is his promise that Tiger Woods, the amateur, cannot be excluded either.

At this moment only two Europeans look ready and able to carry the banner of European golf into the millennium and beyond — Colin

Stewart and John Haskins.

Standing there in the milling crowd of the airport searching for a trolley on which to carry his luggage to a courtesy car, Langer looked like the golden hero of years gone by. He, Woosnam, 38, and Ballesteros, 39, are all now in the senior generation, capable of contending only occasionally, the exception to the rule that the sand in their hour glasses is running out is Nick Faldo, who was 39 on the first day of the Open.

Faldo, the Masters champion, has been in Florida practising under the eye of David Leadbetter for one week, playing early in the mornings before it became too hot. He, as well as anyone, knows how time is running out for him.

"I don't have any problems getting mentally into the mode, but physically it's sometimes very difficult," Faldo said. "Sometimes you see the clock running down and your swing is not right and that is frustrating. That is always the toughest bit, getting the golf swing right at the right time."

Great Britain produced a blistering first 1,000 metres, relegating the Danes to fourth place. At 1,500 metres, the British were still leading, but the world champions had overtaken the Americans and Japanese and were pressing Britain, who were ominously, already rating 39 strokes a minute. Britain's last 500 metres took 1min 32sec; the Danes clocked 1:28 and were a length clear at the line.

Lennie Robertson, the British coach, offered no excuse

## ROWING: BRITAIN'S LIGHTWEIGHT EIGHT FORCE WORLD CHAMPIONS TO DIG DEEP



The United States women's coxed four on their way to defeat against the powerful Romanians at Strathclyde. Photograph: Martin Cleaver

## Dashing Denmark weather the storm

By MIKE ROSEWELL  
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

**THE LIGHTWEIGHT** eight from Denmark not only underlined their status as world champions but their ability to stay cool under pressure on the first day of the world championships at Strathclyde yesterday, when an inspired British challenge pushed them to the limit of their resources.

Great Britain produced a blistering first 1,000 metres, relegating the Danes to fourth place. At 1,500 metres, the British were still leading, but the world champions had overtaken the Americans and Japanese and were pressing Britain, who were ominously, already rating 39 strokes a minute. Britain's last 500 metres took 1min 32sec; the Danes clocked 1:28 and were a length clear at the line.

Lennie Robertson, the British coach, offered no excuse

afterwards. "We went out to beat them and failed; we live to fight another day," he said. That other day could be Sunday's final, assuming the eight reaches the last six in an incredibly close final. Italy and Germany went faster than Denmark in the other heat.

Of the nine British crews racing yesterday, six, including the eight, will have to face repechages. The direct pro-

gression successes were achieved by the men's heavyweight coxed four, with some ease; and the men's lightweight squad, narrowly, from the Spanish. Both are through to their semi-finals.

The women's lightweight pair of Alison Brownless and Jane Hall, who achieved Britain's only first place of the opening day, booked a direct place in Sunday's final. The

### RESULTS FROM STRATHCLYDE

HEAVYWEIGHTS		LIGHTWEIGHTS	
Men's COXED PAIRS: Qualifiers for semi-final	Heat one: France 7min 56sec	Czech Republic 6:11, Great Britain 6:13, Germany 6:12, United States 6:13, Denmark 6:14, Australia 6:15, Italy 6:19; France 6:02, Austria 6:12.	
Heat two: Holland 7:58, Great Britain (Bedoy and West) 8:05 go to repechage			
Men's COXED FOUR: Qualifiers for semi-final	Heat one: Yugoslavia 6:46, Great Britain 6:49; Italy 6:50. Heat two: Russia 6:42, France 6:43, Germany 6:49, Holland 6:50, Romania 6:52, Czech Republic 6:59, Portugal 6:43.	Men's EIGHTS: Qualifiers for semi-final: Denmark 5:57, Heat one: Italy 7:07, Czech Republic 7:13, Heat two: Ireland 8:56, Germany 7:00, Sweden 8:59, United States 7:04, Great Britain (Keys and Brown) 8:00 go to repechage.	
Women's COXED PAIRS: Qualifiers for semi-final	Heat one: United States 8:14, Holland 8:15, Romania 8:16, France 8:17, Romania 8:18, Heat two: Romania 7:18, Great Britain (Long) 7:21 goes to repechage	Men's SINGLE SCULLS: Qualifiers for semi-final: Heat one: United States 8:09, Heat two: Great Britain (Brownless and Hall) 8:13.	
Women's COXLESS FOUR: Qualifiers for semi-final: Heat one: France 8:04, Heat two: Denmark 7:27, Great Britain 7:31 go to repechage		Women's SINGLE SCULLS: Qualifiers for semi-final: Heat one: France 8:04, Heat two: United States 7:53, Heat three: Poland 8:07, Great Britain (Appelboom) 8:11, goes to repechage	

duo looked much happier than seven weeks ago, when they just failed to qualify for Atlanta as a double scull. They led from the first stroke and the experienced Brownless said afterwards: "We knew we had it, and it then became a case of conserving energy and remaining relaxed."

The world champions from the United States won the other heat, faster at every

point of the race, but this did not seem to deter Hall. "It will be pay-back time on Sunday," she confidently predicted.

The men's heavyweight coxed pair of Dave Beckley and Damian West, an Oxford Blue of earlier this year, threatened to achieve another first place for Britain in the opening race. They led to 1,500 metres, before an eye-catching last 500 from Schultz and Prevost, the experienced Frenchmen, relegated them to second place and a repechage route to the final.

Sue Appelboom, who finished third in her lightweight sculls heat, knew that Constanta Burica, of Romania, an Atlanta Olympic double sculls gold-medallist, could be a problem in her first race, but Burica, Appelboom and the crowd were awestruck by the speed of the unheralded Sarah Garner, from the United States.

## The feast of sport that leaves you fit to burst



Midweek View

**I**f sport be the food of life, play on! Give me excess of it! Though, come to think of it, excess is exactly what we have all just had. It has been more than just a lot of events; this has been the greatest concentration of sport in history.

I carry a notebook to events, in which I write great thoughts and, occasionally, the score, along with the odd bird list and hectoring reminders about the dentist and doing my expenses. It normally takes me six months to fill a book. I have filled the last one in just eight weeks and with scarcely a single moment for such private concerns as dentists.

All this without going to a Test match, or even a High Court. Nor have I been to the British Grand Prix, Henley, Royal Ascot, or the Open golf. Most of the usual staples of the great summer of sport have passed me by.

I have been to the European football championship. Remember that? I scarcely can myself. I am still in Atlanta, a city in which no one has heard of Gazza. Then came two weeks of Wimbledon: those with long memories will remember Henmania and the march of the unknowns.

Then to Atlanta for the Olympic Games, a week of phoney war and previews, followed by the quadrennial 17-day orgy of actual sport — and, in the middle of it all, the sports editor suggests I go to the Charity Shield. You are familiar, no doubt, with the painting entitled "The Olympic Journo Asked to Cover the Charity Shield": Edward Munch was the artist.

Is the Charity Shield a return to sanity or merely a continuation of the madness? And, if so, is there no end to it? For the pace really is hotting up. More and more sport, more and more televised sport, more and more sport in newspapers. Is our appetite for the stuff insatiable?

It seems so — and yet, I wonder. One thing that makes me wonder is NBC's coverage of the Olympic Games, which

Test matches cater for corporate guests first, life-long cricket enthusiasts second. Wimbledon is the same, but worse.

The theory about betraying the people of your heartland is that you always have them — but is this true? Does not even the most devoted lover grow weary of constant betrayal? What will happen when the fringe followers, the floating voters of sport, grow tired of the stuff? And the prices fall, and sport is no longer such a sure-fire global hit? Well, the good old people who always supported us will still be there, won't they?

Maybe not. Maybe they will have lost interest and found some other, less capricious mistress. As I look out of my hotel room in Atlanta, my bag half-packed behind me and notebook closed to my left, I wonder: is this where the tidal wave of sport broke and rolled back?

We move now to the usual hectic period where football greedily encroaches onto the summer, bringing its icy taste of winter. Cricket and football overlap, giving us, even as the Olympic Games ends, a continuation of the pattern of excess.

All around the edges, we find depressingly sordid stuff, mostly arguments about money, and you think, really, there are times when sport presumes too much on the good nature of its followers and, perhaps, times come when even the most devoted of us begin to pick and choose. Let sport beware. The global fascination with it may already have reached its peak.

East took the opening lead with the ace of hearts and returned the five. West's lead of the queen of hearts was probably from shortage, as East was unlikely to double Two Spades on a poor hand unless he had four hearts. So declarer's problem was to draw trumps in order to cash

the diamonds, but not run into a trump promotion in the process.

Rubin (South) solved it neatly by running the seven of spades at trick three. Although that could have failed if West's spades were AK6 or A6 or K6, nevertheless it was the best percentage line. From AK6 West might well have risen with an honour on the first round, and after his double of Two Spades East was likely to have a singleton.

When East won the king of spades, cashed the ace of clubs and continued hearts, Rubin was able to ruff high and thus restrict the defence to two trump tricks, ace of clubs and ace of hearts.

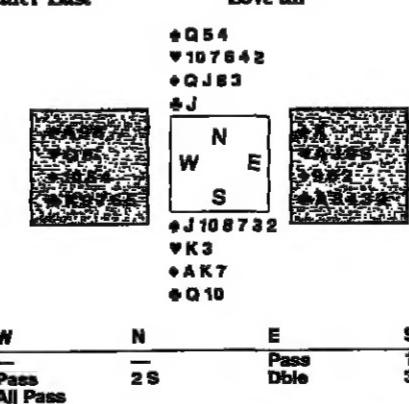
□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Ronnie Rubin, world champion in 1983, made a good play on this hand from this year's American Spring Nationals.

Dealer East Love all IMPs



Contract: Three Spades by South Lead: queen of hearts

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, it is normal to play the South's bid of Three Spades in the above auction as pre-emptive; the reason is that

South has several game tries he could use over East's double of Two Spades. Some players add the wrinkle that Three Spades is a game-tryst asking for good trumps. It keeps the pre-emptive use available on a hand with a good spade suit, as in that case your partner won't have good enough trumps to raise.

East took the opening lead with the ace of hearts and returned the five. West's lead of the queen of hearts was probably from shortage, as East was unlikely to double Two Spades on a poor hand unless he had four hearts. So declarer's problem was to draw trumps in order to cash

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ARCHIE

- a. An homosexual
- b. An anti-aircraft gun
- c. Crown of fan vaulting

CHINAMAN

- a. A backhand sabre slash
- b. A skittle
- c. A tricky ball

Answers on page 42

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Favourites win

In the first round of the British Championships at present in Derbyshire at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham, the favourites all won comfortably, though Matthew Sadler, the defending champion had to endure some anxious moments before notching the full point.

Grandmaster Mark Hebden defeated Roland Cole, grandmaster John Emms defeated James Vigus, while 12-year-old prodigy Luke McShane also opened with a victory, in his case against Alan Spice.

White: James Cobb  
Black: Matthew Sadler  
British Championship, Nottingham, August 1996

Torre attack

- 1 d4 Nf6
- 2 Bf4 e5
- 3 Bg5 c5
- 4 e3 cxd4
- 5 exd4 Bf6
- 6 b3 b6
- 7 Nbd2 Bb7
- 8 c3 Nd5
- 9 Be7 Qxe7
- 10 g3 O-O
- 11 Ce2 d6
- 12 0-0-0 Nd7
- 13 Kb1 Rfb8
- 14 Ka1 Bc6
- 15 c4 Nb4
- 16 Bb1 d5
- 17 Nxc4 Rfb7
- 18 Nc5 Bb7
- 19 Ne6 Nd5
- 20 a3 Cxd7
- 21 Nxd7 Qe8
- 22 Ne5 g6
- 23 Cd3 g5
- 24 h4 b5
- 25 h5 b4
- 26 Rh1 Nc3
- 27 h6 hxg5
- 28 bxc3 Rfc3

White resigns

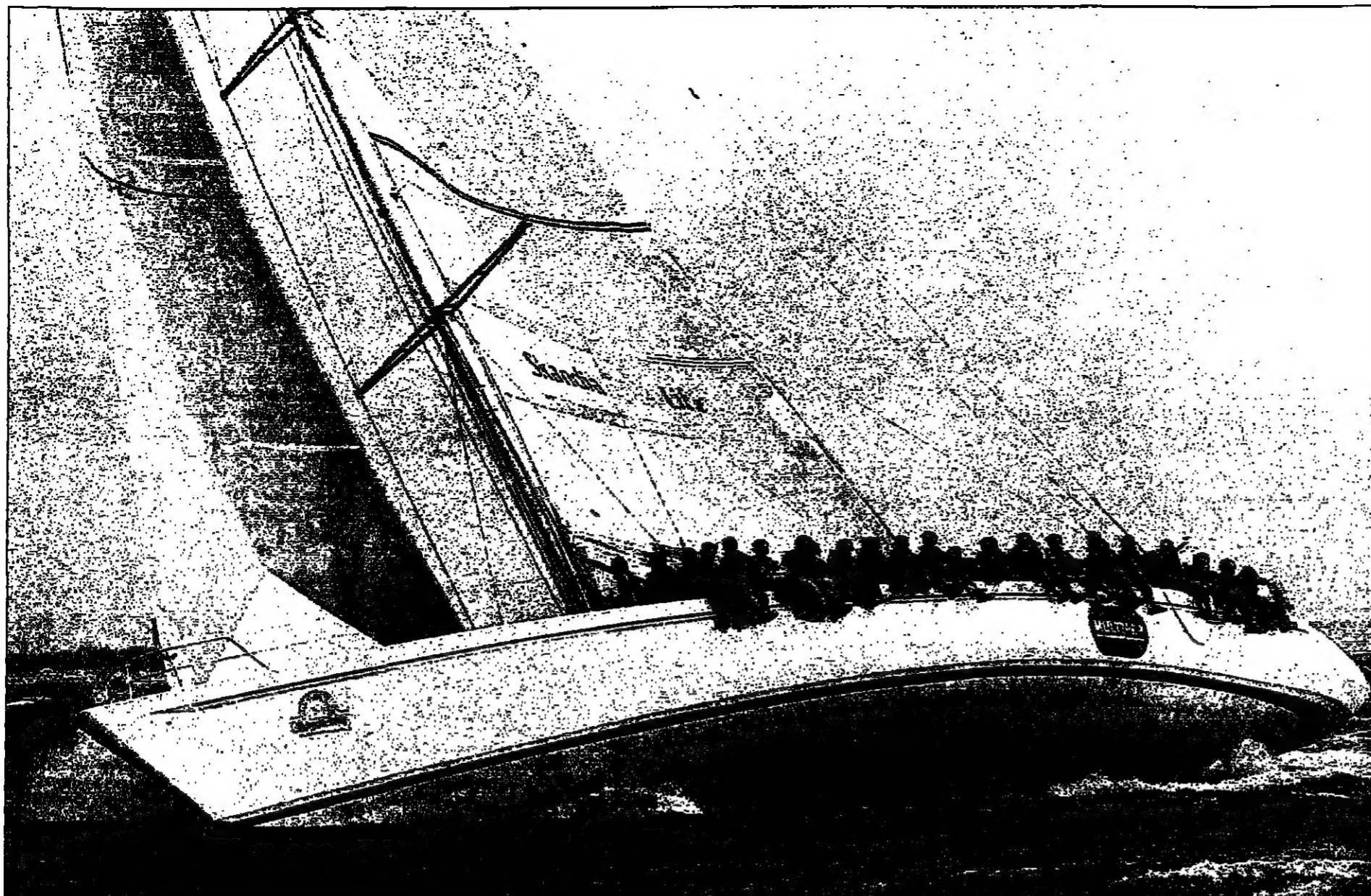
Diagram of final position

Russian invasion

The United States has proved an attractive locale for departing Russian and ex-Soviet grandmasters. As if to emphasise this, the annual US Championship, which finished recently in Parsippany contained no less than 11 former Russian or Soviet players out of total of 14. The new US champion is Alex Yermolinsky, who scored 9/13, followed by Gukko and Kaidanov on 8, with Ivanov on 7.5.

New Times book

The *Times* Winning Moves 2



*Multipipe goes to windward on the western Solent at the start of yesterday's Maxi race. Storm damage later forced John Caulcutt, the skipper, to retire. Photograph: Gill Allen*

## Storm's impact makes for mad Cowes

BY EDWARD GORMAN  
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS a wild day on the Solent yesterday as the south-westerly breeze built to gale force and then gusts to up to 55 knots, ravaging the Skandia Life Cowes Week fleet. There were numerous dismasting, one crew overboard, several yachts on the rocks and one sinking.

After a quiet start to the regatta on Saturday, when there was almost no wind at all, the conditions deteriorated yesterday to the strongest for years. At the start of the day, the weather centre had been predicting thunderstorms and strong winds with gusts in excess of 50 knots, equivalent to storm force ten on the Beaufort scale. Apart from the thunderstorms, it all came true.

Nevertheless, the race officers of the Cowes Combined

Clubs sent out most of the 29 classes. However, as the wind gradually increased in strength, they eventually cancelled racing for ten of the smaller day boats; but others, including the Glenfiddich 1, in third place, were already out taking their chances.

With their large mainsails,

which cannot be reefed, the Melges ended up being the worst hit in conditions which were way beyond their limit. By the third mark, three of them had lost their rigs. Dave Johnson's *Cavendish Cool Cat*, which did so well at the Rover Series at Tertar, Ian Pirnall's *Pink Lips* and Matthew Vincent on the aptly-named *What A Blast*.

Five other Melges were driven onto the shore, hitting the rocks; another, *Interalpha* driven by Charlie Stobart-Hook, retired after one of its crew was injured. Of those who ran aground, David

Clarke's *Snickers Workwear* managed to recover and then win the race from Mike Lennon, on *Raw Hyde*, in second and David Bedford, on *Glenfiddich 1*, in third. Clarke said: "The boat was pushed to the limit in these conditions. I didn't realise we would have to

get out and push in the Solent — it was like playing rugby."

While the Melges were

being ravaged, Greg Peck's

Class 1 Rocket 31, *Camp Freddie*, was in even more difficulty. She appeared to have been going to windward towards Gurnard, when she

touched the bottom and then started pounding on what was a dangerous lee shore. The crew decided to sail her onto the beach on Princess Esplanade to try to save her from breaking up.

In the International Etchells fleet, at least one yacht sank just off the Royal Yacht Squadron while the air sea rescue helicopter was called out to the Class 4 yacht *Jagga* after a woman crew member, Serena Willett, fell overboard. She was later reported to be uninjured after landing at Cowes.

The four-strong maxi fleet took the brunt of the storm as they headed into the teeth of it out beyond the Needles to the Bridge buoy, where a steep swell reaching over 20ft and winds gusting in excess of 54 knots caused havoc. Some skippers later criticised the race officers for sending the yachts that far out where big

seas were bound to build, especially since they knew gusts of 50 knots were forecast.

The first casualty was the Russian maxi *Grand Mistral*, which sailed over her spinnaker and shredded it and later retired. Mike Slade's *Longobarda* lost her main sheet shackle and could not reef and also retired. Out at the Bridge, John Caulcutt's *Multipipe*, otherwise known as *Maxima*, got into difficulties after the boom got caught between the cheek stays and the runner.

With 32 people on board, including 16 visitors, the situation became alarming as they headed into the teeth of it out beyond the Needles to the Bridge buoy, where a steep swell reaching over 20ft and winds gusting in excess of 54 knots caused havoc. Some skippers later criticised the race officers for sending the yachts that far out where big

**ATHLETICS: TRIPLE JUMPER JOINS JACKSON IN SEEKING TO MAKE AMENDS FOR DISAPPOINTMENT AT OLYMPIC GAMES**

## Edwards launches attempt to redress the balance

BY DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

JONATHAN EDWARDS will be looking for his first 18-metres triple jump of the season and Colin Jackson faces Allen Johnson, the 110 metres hurdles Olympic champion, when athletics returns to its normal, week-business in the Italian skiing resort of Sestriere today.

Edwards, the International Amateur Athletic Federation 1995 male world athlete of the year, had to settle for the silver medal in Atlanta, where his sequence of 22 victories was ended by Kenny Harrison, of the United States. Harrison's gold-medal

jump of 18.09 metres stands as the longest of the season but Edwards looked in the last two rounds, when he fouled but travelled far, as though he is capable of going further.

He was convinced that he had jumped at least 18.20 metres and, with the benefit of altitude in Sestriere, he may not be far short of his world record of 18.29. However, more often than not the meeting is blighted by high winds or cold mists. Or, as was the case last year, by controversy.

Ivan Pedroso, from Cuba, who went on to win the long jump at the world championships in Gothenburg, came down from the mount-

tains believing that he had replaced Mike Powell as the world record-holder. However, video evidence supplied by an amateur cameraman showed a figure in blue turning his belly towards the wind gauge.

Foul play was the verdict of the Italian federation (Fidal), which ruled that Pedroso's jump should not be ratified. Of the 60 attempts made in the long and triple jump competitions, only four were within the legal limit, three of those by Pedroso. Every jump by the Cuban saw the man in the blue jacket attempting to obstruct the wind gauge. The official in question, Luciano Gemello, was banned for life by the Italian federa-

tion. Italian journalists reported that Gemello had links with Fiat, which owns Ferrari, supplier of £85,000 cars to athletes who set world records in Sestriere.

Johnson, who missed Jackson's world record by 0.001sec, will complete his perfect season, if, having won at the Olympics, he could now become the fastest sprint hurdler in history. Again, though, much depends on one of those rare days in Sestriere when the sun shines and the winds blow gently.

Jackson, fourth at the Olympics, seems to have lost his speed between the hurdles. Also in the race will be

Tony Jarrett, twice a world championship silver medal-winner in the past four years but who has had a season even more wretched than Jackson's. Jarrett has been disqualified twice for false starts and, at the Olympics, he hit the seventh hurdle and crashed to the ground.

The most publicised false start of

the Olympics was Linford Christie's in the 100 metres and his participation in Sestriere appears to have more to do with a pay day than showing where he might have finished in Atlanta had he not been disqualified. Only Davidson Eziwa of the Olympic finalists is present. Eziwa, from Nigeria, was sixth.

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

**ARCHIE**

(b) An anti-aircraft gun, originally applied to those used by the Germans in the war of 1914-18. Occasionally used by the British in the First World War, when it was replaced by *ack-ack*. "The anti-aircraft guns got their names of Archies from a light-hearted British pilot, who when he was fired at in the air quoted a popular music-hall refrain: 'Archibald, certainly not'."

**CHINAMAN**

(c) An off-break delivered out of the back of the hand by a left-handed bowler at cricket to a right-handed bat. It took its name partly from its trickiness and partly from being bowled in the Thirties by Ellis Achong, who, although he played for the West Indies, was in fact a Chinese. I understand that the term can be similarly an off-break bowled out of the back or side of the hand by a right-handed bowler — that is, the ball comes out to a right-handed batsman from the off and the left-handed bowler's action in bowling is equivalent to that of the right-hander in bowling a leg break."

**THREE IN A BED**

(c) A shot-hope/penny, the old English pub game made more difficult by decimal coinage, the divisions on the board are known as beds. The object is to fill one bed with three half-pennies, which are chalked up on the machine of the board. If well-worn and well-tended, the pence are used, a skilled player can sometimes achieve three in a bed with a single shot, nudging in two and letting his own coin follow through.

**PETER**

(a) Leading the higher card of two at Bridge to indicate a doubleton. Possibly from "peering out". "Every Bridge player knows the principle of high-low defence as a signal of encouragement. Generally known as the peter in Britain and the echo or 'come-on' in America, it is most frequently used against an opponent's trump contract to indicate strength or a doubleton."

### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Rxh3+! 2 gxh3 Be+!! 3 Nxe4 Qxh3+ and mate follows.

To readers of *The Times* we offer a wide range of Times publications with fast, efficient service to EU customers of the items listed below at pp. Send fax for further details. Sterling/US dollar charges only.

**TIMES CROSSWORDS** — Books 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 527, 529, 531, 533, 535, 537, 539, 541, 543, 545, 547, 549, 551, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 563, 565, 567, 569, 571, 573, 575, 577, 579, 581, 583, 585, 587, 589, 591, 593, 595, 597, 599, 601, 603, 605, 607, 609, 611, 613, 615, 617, 619, 621, 623, 625, 627, 629, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639, 641, 643, 645, 647, 649, 651, 653, 655, 657, 659, 661, 663, 665, 667, 669, 671, 673, 675, 677, 679, 681, 683, 685, 687, 689, 691, 693, 695, 697, 699, 701, 703, 705, 707, 709, 711, 713, 715, 717, 719, 721, 723, 725, 727, 729, 731, 733, 735, 737, 739, 741, 743, 745, 747, 749, 751, 753, 755, 757, 759, 761, 763, 765, 767, 769, 771, 773, 775, 777, 779, 781, 783, 785, 787, 789, 791, 793, 795, 797, 799, 801, 803, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815, 817, 819, 821, 823, 825, 827, 829, 831, 833, 835, 837, 839, 841, 843, 845, 847, 849, 851, 853, 855, 857, 859, 861, 863, 865, 867, 869, 871, 873, 875, 877, 879, 881, 883, 885, 887, 889, 891, 893, 895, 897, 899, 901, 903, 905, 907, 909, 911, 913, 915, 917, 919, 921, 923, 925, 927, 929, 931, 933, 935, 937, 939, 941, 943, 945, 947, 949, 951, 953, 955, 957, 959, 961, 963, 965, 967, 969, 971, 973, 975, 977, 979, 981, 983, 985, 987, 989, 991, 993, 995, 997, 999, 1001, 1003, 1005, 1007, 1009, 1011, 1013, 1015, 1017, 1019, 1021, 1023, 1025, 1027, 1029, 1031, 1033, 1035, 1037, 1039, 1041, 1043, 1045, 1047, 1049, 1051, 1053, 1055, 1057, 1059, 1061, 1063, 1065, 1067, 1069, 1071, 1073, 1075, 1077, 1079, 1081, 1083, 1085, 1087, 1089, 1091, 1093, 1095, 1097, 1099, 1101, 1103, 1105, 1107, 1109, 1111, 1113, 1115, 1117, 1119, 1121, 1123, 1125, 1127, 1129, 1131, 1133, 1135, 1137, 1139, 1141, 1143, 1145, 1147, 1149, 1151, 1153, 1155, 1157, 1159, 1161, 1163, 1165, 1167, 1169, 1171, 1173, 1175, 1177, 1179, 1181, 1183, 1185, 1187, 1189, 1191, 1193, 1195, 1197, 1199, 1201, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1209, 1211, 1213, 1215, 1217, 1219, 1221, 1223, 1225, 1227, 1229, 1231, 1233, 1235, 1237, 1239, 1241, 1243, 1245, 1247, 1249, 1251, 1253, 1255, 1257, 1259, 1261, 1263, 1265, 1267, 1269, 1271, 1273, 1275, 1277, 1279, 1281, 1283, 1285, 1287, 1289, 1291, 1293, 1295, 1297, 1299, 1301, 1303, 1305, 1307, 1309, 1311, 1313, 1315, 1317, 1319, 1321, 1323, 1325, 1327, 1329, 1331, 1333, 1335, 1337, 1339, 1341, 1343, 1345, 1347, 1349, 1351, 1353, 1355, 1357, 1359, 1361, 1363, 1365, 1367, 1369, 1371, 1373, 1375, 1377, 1379, 1381, 1383, 1385, 1387, 1389, 1391, 1393, 1395, 1397, 1399, 1401, 1403, 1405, 1407, 1409, 1411, 1413, 1415, 1417, 1419, 1421, 1423, 1425, 1427

# Conclusions, convictions, contradictions

In the 1960s, when *The Fugitive* was the cornerstone of a nation's viewing, somebody always knew somebody who had an American cousin who knew whether the one-armed man was ever found. 'Don't tell us!' we said in our house, clamping our hands to our ears and singing 'La La La' whenever a premature *Fugitive* revelation threatened. America was an impossibly distant place at the time; only the Beatles and David Frost had been. Thus was the surprise outcome of *The Fugitive* safely preserved. Looking back on it, I now wonder whether those "American cousins" were wicked inventions by people seeking spurious self-importance. Damn! Thirty years it has taken me to realise this.

**Murder One** finishes tonight on BBC2, and my point is this: anybody still innocent of the solution to Jessica Costello's murder has sung 'La La La' for five months at

commendable volume, and I count myself among them. I have no idea who killed Jessica Costello, but it has been a huge effort to retain my innocence, especially given that Sky TV sent me a tape of "Chapter 23" several months ago. Neil Avedon was found guilty last night, but I am sure he isn't; he was framed by Richard Cross, and now poses a suicide risk in jail. That's all I know.

Meanwhile *Teddy* (bold hero defence lawyer with big ears) bestrides Los Angeles like an impatient colossus, and last night the defence case turned on a sudden serendipitous inspiration worthy of Jack Lord in the heyday of *Hawaii Five-O*. At a news-stand, Teddy spots a surveillance camera and is struck by a thought. Staring at the lens, he narrows his piggy eyes. "There is a camera hidden in Jessica Costello's apartment," he growls outside, holding a car door. "I know it in my guts."

Wow. Teddy's infallible wisdom throughout *Murder One* has been pretty hard to take, actually. Last night a member of his youthful team even made a helluvaguy speech that went, "And that, ladies and gentlemen, is why his name is on the door!" The viewer's sympathies have been cleverly managed throughout: rarely has an abstract moral notion of justice interfered with our concern for the joy or suffering of the handsome dramatic personae. Neil's horror of prison (where a "pretty boy like Neil" is destined for special problems) is reason enough to worry on his behalf, leaving his supposed moral deserts entirely aside.

**Will** poor Neil languish long in jail? Or will he take his own life, minutes before the cavalry arrive? Whatever the answer, one group of people who will not care much about Neil's pretty-boy fate are the

## REVIEW



Lynne  
Truss

ex-con theatre company who helped to make *War Cries* (Channel 4) — a plea to reform the tortuous parole system. These were men who had suffered "knock-backs" in prison: teased with freedom and then denied it, sometimes after months of hoping.

Special pleading is the point of a programme such as *War Cries*, yet it still sticks in the gutt somehow to see armed robbers feeling sorry

for themselves. Directing and writing the half-hour film was Lady Alice Douglas — famous for marrying a prison inmate on a home visit. She described her pain when Simon received a knock-back, and it sounded quite awful except that a still small voice objected "But you didn't have to marry him, did you?" In terms of audience sympathy, the trickiest moment involved an after-dinner discussion among Simon's friends, over which Alice gave brief career histories. One of Simon's chums had committed 36 armed robberies. "But he is now a gentle man, since he gave up crack," said Alice. Oh good.

To be fair, the case made against the parole system was quite compelling, but so was the case made in its favour. As Ann Widdecombe pointed out, parole boards are not bothered about raising and dash-hoping; their purpose is to protect the public against prisoners who may reoffend. One long-

time jail-widow complained she had lost heart in the parole system because her husband was repeatedly knocked back. Oddly it never occurred to her to lose heart in her husband instead.

**O**n an evening in which justice wrestled with emotional concerns, Justice for Lynn (Channel 4) took the biscuit. This was the familiar story of Flo Siddons' legal ground-breaking prosecution (and persecution) of Michael Brookes — the man who may have killed her granddaughter Lynn in 1978. Eighteen years later, he finally stands convicted of Lynn's murder, and the Siddons family are weeping with joy and relief. Watching their story, the viewer was likewise expected to weep with joy and relief — vindication after 18 years! What a struggle! The only fly in the ointment (and such a little fly, what did it matter?) was that the

actual evidence against Brookes was either omitted from this programme or was ridiculously thin.

Brookes looked guilty, certainly — which is all you need on television. Contrasting with the cool, dapper and determined Siddons family — walking advertisements equally for the Old Testament and the miracle of the travel iron — Brookes and his wife slumped and sweated in front of cameras, their cigarette smoke curling round unwashed hair. As Philip Whitehead cheerfully pointed out, the 18-year delay in bringing this case has ruined Brookes' life, too — the Siddons family "hounded him", as they admit. But their treatment of Brookes was always justified, in their opinion, because whatever he might suffer, he was alive while Lynn was not. Whoever coined that thing about an eye for an eye has some very big fans in the Siddons family.

## BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (22842)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (53113)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (2167281)
- 9.20 Delta Smith's Summer Collection (1) (Ceefax) (7784552)
- 9.50 Gourmet Ireland (s) (5128552)
- 10.20 FILM: Doctor in the House (1954) Classic medical comedy, with Dirk Bogarde, Kenneth More and James Robertson Justice Directed by Ralph Thomas (10700688)
- 12.00 News, Regional News & Weather (Ceefax) (1827658)
- 12.05 Spin! The Alphabet Game (s) (4080571)
- 12.35 Neighbours (Ceefax) (5891674)
- 1.00 News & Weather (Ceefax) (52620)
- 1.30 Regional News and Weather (42102823)
- 1.40 NEW Florida Folk: British expatriates (6813537)
- 2.05 More Secret Gardens (58289910) 2.15 Lovejoy (1) (Ceefax) (s) (4546410)
- 3.10 NEW Where's the Jack? Julia Caring presents a six-part series on car maintenance (939842)
- 3.25 Snowy River — the McGregor Saga (r) (s) (7193571)
- 4.50 Knot Landing (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2704259)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (6191839)
- 6.00 News & Weather (Ceefax) (194)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazines (574)
- 7.00 Small Talk. Ronnie Corbett hosts the show in which grown-ups must unravel the minds of children (Ceefax) (s) (3991)
- 7.30 Mastermind. From Drapers' Hall in the City of London. The specialist subjects are Hergé, Aphra Behn, Lawrence of Arabia and John Henry Newman. (Ceefax) (s) (558)
- 8.00 Birds of a Feather. The sisters try to stay out of trouble while keeping an eye on their man-hungry-neighbour Dorian (r) (Ceefax) (s) (699113)
- 8.50 Points of View (Ceefax) (s) (118033)
- 9.00 News, Regional News, Weather (Ceefax) (2484)
- 9.30 Inside Story: Caring for Christopher (Ceefax) (s) (646129)
- 10.20 BBC Proms 1996: Dawn at Dusk. In the first of four programmes, the American soprano Dawn Upshaw sings American operatic arias and a selection of show songs accompanied by the London Sinfonietta under Eric Stern (1873804)
- 11.40 FILM: The Andromeda Strain (1971). Part of the Alien Invasion season. When a research satellite carrying a lethal extraterrestrial organism crashes into a small town in Arizona, a group of top scientists are rounded up in order to identify and control the potentially plague-type germ... The director Robert Wise maintains suspense throughout and the special effects are impressive for the time. Arthur Hill stars as a scientist prepared to sacrifice himself for humanity. Also starring David Wayne, James Olson, Kate Reid, Paul Mitchell and George Mitchell (Ceefax) (23420262)
- 1.45pm-1.50 Weather (6021750)

**VideoPlus+** and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you want to record. VideoPlus+ ("VideoPlus") and Video+ Programmes are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

## BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: Complex Numbers (393910) 6.25 Rabbis and Chalk Grasslands (3021945) 6.50 The Other Virtuosos (2999303)
- 7.15 See Hear News (Ceefax) (6274026)
- 7.30 Mr Benn (7315151) 7.45 Lassie (117587) 8.10 Smurfs' Adventures (5600910) 8.35 Get Your Own Back (2539213) 9.05 Spiderman (2164194) 9.25 Smart (7901013) 9.50 Puppydog Tales (598378) 10.00 Paydays (7408858)
- 10.25 Man in a Suitcase (Ceefax) (2007378) 11.15 A Passion for Angling (9259820) 12.05pm The Addams Family (Ceefax) (6055668) 12.30 Making Tracks (49823) 1.00 Melvyn and Maureen's Music-a-Grams (5137113) 1.15 A-Z of Food (24159910) 1.25 Wear It Well (4511620)
- 1.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show (Ceefax) (2827571) 2.20 Crawshay Paints on Holiday (8755073) 2.45 A Life of Knowledge (4600200) 3.00 News (1906202) 3.05 The Natural World (1077649) 3.55 News (3581397)
- 4.00 Cartoon (573048) 4.05 The Family News (5379755) 4.10 Run the Risk (2324587) 4.30 Cartoon Critters (571) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (3031561) 5.10 Byker Grove (r) (Ceefax) (5436991)
- 5.35 The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (r) (682281)
- 6.00 The Champions (Ceefax) (798477)
- 6.50 A Week to Remember (228945)
- 7.00 Growing Old Disgracefully, Part of the Coming of Age season (1533)
- 7.30 The Dynasty: Heirs of Uncertainty (33) A privileged birth is no guarantee of security to the children of Pakistan's ruling elite (Ceefax) (s) (200)
- 8.00 School. Francis Combe School welcomes an habitual truant (Ceefax) (s) (7151)
- 8.30 Will Harvey with Nick Nairn. Nick goes dredging for scallops and hunts for a roebuck (Ceefax) (s) (2216)
- 9.00 Murder One: Chapter 23 — The End. Jessica's murderer is uncovered (Ceefax) (s) (447291)
- 9.45 WrinklyVision. A comical look at America's old folk on television (Ceefax) (s) (891729)
- 10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (939281)
- 11.15 What Are You Going To Do? Part of the Coming of Age season (981608)
- 12.00 Grace Under Fire Comedy (s) (17840)
- 12.30am The Learning Zone: Open University: the Binnullico Chapel, Florence (Ceefax) (81972) 1.00 The Big Picture (22392) 1.30 Imagining New Worlds (79798) 2.00 Great Outdoors Collection 3 (56021) 4.00-6.00 Languages: Italianissimo España Viva Díez Temas Bon Mot (86175)

**Britain's golden girls** (7.00pm)

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**SCHOOL**. Francis Combe School welcomes an habitual truant (Ceefax) (s) (7151)

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**WRINKLYVISION**. A comical look at America's old folk on television (Ceefax) (s) (891729)

**NEWSNIGHT** (Ceefax) (939281)

**WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?** Part of the Coming of Age season (981608)

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**BON MOT** (s) (86175)

## CHOICE

### Growing Old Disgracefully

BBC2, 7.00pm

Six women, who first got together in 1969 and have been close friends since, describe how they have made light of old age. If their fashion is not exactly disgraceful, unless you count a sport of riding their horses, it is their life that is open at 65, or even 78. They go on holiday together, write and publish books and are determined to enjoy themselves. We meet them during a rumbustious weekend in Suffolk, during which they sing, dance, go swimming and think positively. At 77, Edith declares that she is still open to new challenges. Mary, who is also in her seventies, continues to use eye make-up and dye her hair. Shirley, a comparative youngster at 65, declares that she is not prepared to be good and nice and kind, at least not all the time. Rows of pill bottles are a reminder of advancing years but the minds remain sharp and active.

**Short Stories: Running Wild**

Channel 4, 8.30pm

Last winter was the coldest for 20 years in some parts of Britain, providing perfect conditions for mushers. These are participants in the sport of sled dog racing. The lack of snow in Britain means that for most of the time mushers have to make do with muddy tracks, and their husky dogs pulling three-wheeled rigs instead of proper sleds. But with snow promised, a British Cup competition is arranged in the Cairngorms. It attracts the best in the land, including the current British champion. And then, horror of horrors, a thaw sets in. It looks as though the mushers will have to spend the afternoon watching Scotland's rugby team on the telly. Natalie Bowman, a hot tip for the cup, says that she has not travelled 600 miles for this. *Room* McRae's film weaves deftly through the embarrassment.

**Inside Story: Caring for Christopher**

BBC1, 9.00pm

Charles Stewart and Malcolm Hirst first filmed Christopher Roberts in 1991 for a memorable series on Lewisham council. Now they bring his story up to date. Christopher has epilepsy. The condition is graphically illustrated in the opening sequence, when he rounds on his classmates and treats them to an earful of foul language. His volatile, often aggressive, behaviour goes with an absence of short-term memory and, at 14, has a mental age of seven. It would be good to report that the film has a happy outcome. Christopher's special school does its best and the patience and devotion of his parents is heroic. But epilepsy has no miracle cure. Presented with the minimum of commentary, and never trying to judge, the film is a sympathetic study of dedicated people with an intractable problem.

**WrinklyVision**

BBC2, 9.45pm

With the distinguished exception of *The Golden Girls*, the American television networks tend to pretend that the older generation does not exist. This does not mean that what Americans call seniors are entirely excluded from the screen. Where NBC and CBS decline to tread, regional and local channels are full of elderly grannies and a few grandpas refusing to act their age. The actress Katherine Helmond presents a lively anthology of such turns, though some would have been better left undiscovered. The sight of two geriatric ballerina dancers streaking through their steps is less an advertisement for old age than an argument against it. Talking of advertisements, they do provide work for old Hollywood stars. Here is June Allyson at 79, promoting an aid for the incontinent.

Peter Waymark

**HTV**

6.00am GMTV (4270668)

9.25 Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (r) (Teletext) (s) (7794939)

9.50 Hope and Glory (5113620)

10.25 Regional News (Teletext) (5446378)

10.30 FILM: Dance Academy (1986), with Galyn Gory and Paula Nichols. A ballerina academy is transformed into a school for modern dance by a new teacher. Directed by Ted Melford (40879620)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (1816552)

12.35 News (Ceefax) (6899262)

1.25 Home and Away (83417378)

1.55 Shortland Street (s) (6899262) 1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (s) (6652162) 2.00 Home and Away (83417378)

2.25 FILM: Once Upon a Spy (1980) with Ted Danson, Mary Louise Weller and Christopher Lee. A technical genius is coerced into the world of espionage by his boss, to retrieve a computer owned by NASA. Directed by Ivan Nagy. Concludes tomorrow (9214674)

3.20 News (Teletext) (1086216)

3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (1085587)

3.30 FILM: Aladdin (2171723) 3.40 Wizadora (3129888) 3.50 Chatting Happy Ponies (3181552) 4.00 Bugs Bunny (1085543) 4.15 Tiny Toon Adventures (2238738) 4.40 Are You Afraid of the Dark? (1739945)

5.10 Wheel of Fortune (s) (5930587)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (330945)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (6458223)

6.25 FILM: News (Teletext) (6102062)

6.35 Short Stories: Running Wild (7.30pm)

7.00 Coronation Street. Will Derek's birthday turn out to be all he hopes for? Don the hunt for Nicky (Teletext) (248)

8.00 Inspector Morse: The Dead of Jephtha. Another chance to see the first television dramatisation featuring Colin Dexter's enigmatic Chief Inspector, as he is teamed with Sergeant Lewis. Starring John Thaw and Kevin Whately (r) (Teletext) (s) (2303)

**FOOTBALL 38**

Laudrup takes on Gascoigne's role for Rangers

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7 1996

Record-breaking forward takes stage-managed bow at St James' Park

## Shearer given tumultuous homecoming

By PETER BALL

**ALAN SHEARER** will have to wait until the Charity Shield on Sunday to make his Newcastle United debut, but he has already made an impressive start at his new club. Just by turning up at St James' Park yesterday, he sent Newcastle into a lather of excitement.

"This is a great day for the club," Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, told the media, an elite group of supporters inside the ground and a larger gathering outside. "This club is going places and Alan, together with all the other players, is an investment for the future. It is very difficult to improve on the squad we have, but I'm sure everyone today will agree that we found the right player."

Indeed they did. Although Shearer's arrival was greeted by rain rather than the sunshine his £15 million transfer probably demanded, thousands of supporters braved the weather in the Leazes End car park at St James' Park to pay homage.

Even meeting the supporters was transformed into a high-gloss affair, despite the weather. Usually, if news of a big-money signing leaks out, little groups of diehards congregate outside the ground hoping for a glimpse of their new player.

Yesterday, the rain might have dissuaded some from attending, estimates of the crowd varying between from 5,000 and 15,000, but nonetheless the event was stage-managed from start to finish, more like an American media party than an English sporting occasion. At 2pm, with the press corralled in the Leazes End stand and those lucky few



home-town club 11 years after turning them down as an apprentice was evident, but he gave no sign that the pressure would get to him. "I'm very excited, I've always said I wanted to play for Newcastle and I can't wait for the first game to come," he said.

"I think this team is good enough not only to win the Premier League, but to conquer Europe as well. The price tag is nothing at all to do with me. I don't set the price, all I can do is go out and try to do my best and if that means I score goals which makes me worth £15 million, that's fine."

With Shearer having scored 30 goals in each of the past three seasons and the only player to score 100 goals in the FA Carling Premiership that seems a reasonable forecast, although his integration into the Newcastle side has still to happen. There have been doubts about the ability of Shearer and Les Ferdinand to work together.

Last season, Keegan had advised Terry Venables, the England manager, to play Ferdinand and Shearer as a partnership and he has no doubt about their capacity to play together. "I think they will make a terrific strike-force," the Newcastle manager said. "I think they can take each other to the places they dream about going."

There is no doubt, however, who is going to be the senior

partner. Despite his modesty

Shearer was equally dismissive of suggestions that he will feel pressure. "If pressure is going out and enjoying yourself and being sung to by 30,000 or 40,000 fans then give me more," he said. Every reply was punctuated by roars of approval from the crowd, whose excitement suggested that Shearer actually playing might be unnecessary — all he has to do, it seems, is turn up.

On the decision to leave

Blackburn Rovers and join Newcastle, he said: "It was the saddest decision and in another way the best decision of my life. Leaving Blackburn was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do.

Jack Walker couldn't have tried any harder to keep me and telling him that I was going was very difficult. I had four years of unbelievable success under some great managers and under Jack Walker, who was a great influence.

I had a long meeting with

him on Sunday [last week]

and asked if I could see my options, see what I wanted to do. I met Alex Ferguson on Monday and was very impressed with him and then met with the boss on Tuesday and again I was very impressed and, as everyone knows, I always wanted to play for this club at some stage. I want to play for Newcastle with my best years in front of me, whereas if I'd gone somewhere else for four years, it would then be with my best years behind me."

Even Kenny Dalglish was unable to persuade Shearer to stay with Blackburn, although the Scot finally told him that, whoever he chose, "you can't lose".

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